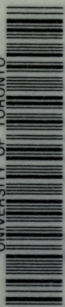


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THE
CORRESPONDENCE

OF THE LATE

JOHN WILKES,

WITH HIS FRIENDS,

PRINTED FROM THE

ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS,

BEQUEATHED

BY HIS DAUGHTER, MISS WILKES,

TO MR. PETER ELMSLEY;

IN WHICH ARE INTRODUCED

MEMOIRS OF HIS LIFE,

BY JOHN ALMON,

IN FIVE VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

London:

PRINTED FOR RICHARD PHILLIPS,

No. 71, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

By J. ADLARD, Duke-Street.

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1805.

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CONTENTS OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

	PAGE.
<i>Mr. Wilkes elected Alderman of the Ward of Farringdon Without - - - - -</i>	1
<i>Letters from Mr. Wilkes to his Daughter, during her residence at Paris, in the Year 1770 - - - - -</i>	24
<i>Correspondence between Mr. Wilkes and his Daughter during the Years 1771, 1772, and 1773 - - - - -</i>	79
<i>Mr. Wilkes elected Sheriff of London and Middlesex, and Lord Mayor of London -</i>	172
<i>———— publishes Catullus, and Theo- phrastus - - - - -</i>	218
<i>———— Tour on the Coast - - -</i>	239
<i>———— Journey to Bath - - - -</i>	257
<i>Letters from James Boswell, esq. to Mr. Wilkes - - - - -</i>	311
<i>Letters from Doctor Warton to Mr. Wilkes</i>	328

CONTENTS OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

1	Mr. Wilkes elected Alderman of the Ward of Farringdon Within
24	Letters from Mr. Wilkes to his Daughter, during her residence at Paris, in the Year 1770
70	Correspondence between Mr. Wilkes and his Daughter during the Years 1771, 1772, and 1773
172	Mr. Wilkes elected Sheriff of London and Middlesex, and Lord Mayor of London
218	_____ publishes <i>Constitution</i> , and <i>Threats</i>
230	_____ <i>Tour on the Coast</i>
237	_____ <i>Journey to Bath</i>
311	Letters from James Boswell, esq. to Mr. Wilkes
328	Letters from Doctor Watson to Mr. Wilkes

MEMOIRS

AND

CORRESPONDENCE

OF

JOHN WILKES, Esq.

MR. WILKES ELECTED ALDERMAN OF THE
WARD OF FARRINGDON WITHOUT.

A VACANCY in the court of aldermen having happened by the death of sir Francis Gosling, a number of freemen of this ward immediately proposed to elect Mr. Wilkes. The design was warmly approved; and, on the 2d of January, 1769, he was elected: But some mistake, in point of form, having been made, the election was declared void; and another was appointed, which took place on the 27th of the same month,

when Mr. Wilkes was unanimously re-chosen.

The ministerial party, who were the majority in the court of aldermen, affecting to doubt Mr. Wilkes's eligibility, resolved to take the opinion of counsel on that point. The recorder (Eyre), the common serjeant (Nugent), and sir Fletcher Norton, were of opinion that he was *not* eligible. In this they were opposed by the attorney-general (De Grey), the solicitor-general (Dunning), Mr. serjeant Glynn, and Mr. serjeant Leigh.

To the latter opinion the court of aldermen were favourable: and it was moved to send notice to Mr. Wilkes of his being duly elected; but this motion was negatived, the aldermen apprehending that a *mandamus* might be the consequence. The election, however, gave Mr. Wilkes a natural and municipal connection with the city of London, and laid the foundation of that attachment which contributed so essentially to both his honour and his interest.

MR. WILKES'S ELECTIONS AND EXPULSIONS.

AT this time Mr. Wilkes's popularity stood very high. The more he was persecuted, the more his popularity increased. By the mere influence of his name and character, (for he had no influence of family or of former connection,) he had already elected his favourite and able counsel, Mr. serjeant Glynn, for the county of Middlesex, in the room of Mr. Cooke, deceased. He appointed members of parliament, aldermen, sheriffs, and mayors, at his pleasure.

Never did the ministers of the crown show more impotent malice, or degrade their royal master into a lower estimation in the judgment of his subjects, (if, indeed, these measures were not forced upon them by a *secret cabinet*,) than throughout the whole persecution of Mr. Wilkes.

A new writ having issued for the election of a member for the county of Middlesex, 'in the room of Mr. Wilkes, *expelled*,' a public meeting of the freeholders was held on the 14th of February, 1769, when it was resolved to re-elect him; and he was unanimously re-chosen on the 16th. But the house of commons declared this election to be void; and further, "that Mr. Wilkes was and is incapable of being elected into the present parliament." Another writ was, therefore, issued, for a new election.

The freeholders persevered in their resolution. They were very sensible that the house of commons exceeded its constitutional powers; and therefore, when the election came on, which was on the 16th of March, Mr. Wilkes was again unanimously returned. A Mr. Dingley stood forward as a candidate, but he had not a single vote.

A third writ was now issued; and at this election a new candidate was brought for-

ward—colonel Henry Lawes Luttrell, who vacated his seat for Bossiney (lord Bute's borough) in order to stand for Middlesex. But this vacation was believed by some to have been very irregularly managed. It was said to be a *nominal* vacation, but not a *real* one ; so that, if Middlesex could not be accomplished, Bossiney was still open. The distinction is not material, for all the transactions of the time were governed by trick and chicane.

On the close of this election (April 13), Mr. Wilkes was returned by the sheriffs (Townsend and Sawbridge), as before. The house of commons ordered the sheriffs to produce the poll-books ; from which it appeared that 1143 freeholders had voted for Mr. Wilkes, and only 296 for colonel Luttrell. Yet the house, to the eternal disgrace equally of itself and of the nation, and in defiance of every principle of honour and justice, declared, that colonel Luttrell *ought* to have been returned : and when pe-

titions from Middlesex, London, Westminster, and Southwark, were presented against colonel Luttrell, the house resolved, on the 8th of May, “that Henry Lawes Luttrell, esquire, is *duly elected* a knight of the shire to serve in this present parliament for the county of Middlesex.”

Thus ended, to use the words of Mr. Burke, “the fifth act of this tragi-comedy :—a tragi-comedy acted by his majesty’s servants, at the desire of several persons of quality, for the benefit of Mr. Wilkes, and at the expence of the constitution*.”

* Several very able and learned tracts were written on this subject ; the principal of which were—

Mr. Grenville’s Speech on the 3d of February, 1769.

Mr. Wilkes’s answer, entitled “A Letter to Mr. Grenville.”

“A fair Trial of the Important Question ;” very generally, but very unjustly, imputed to lord Camden. It was written by Mr. Mackintosh, a barrister, and particular friend of lord Temple.

“The Question Stated,” by sir William Meredith.

The Answer, by judge Blackstone.

“The

SOCIETY OF "SUPPORTERS OF THE BILL
OF RIGHTS."

A NUMBER of independent gentlemen, members of parliament, eminent merchants, considerable traders, and other persons of property, feeling the liberties and privileges of their fellow-subjects deeply wounded by the arbitrary conduct and proceedings of government, formed themselves into a society, with the professed view of supporting Mr. Wilkes ; and a committee was appointed to carry the same into execution throughout the kingdom.

The first meeting of this society was held at the London Tavern, on the 20th of Feb-

"The Case of the Middlesex Election," by J. Dyson,
M. P.

"Serious Considerations on a late Important Decision,"
by Edward Weston, Esq. writer of the gazette.

"False Alarm," by Dr. Johnson.

The Answer by Mr. Rosenhagen.

Lunius's Letters.

ruary, 1769 ; when a subscription was made by the gentlemen present, amounting to 3023l.

A second meeting was held at the same place, on the 25th of the same month ; when they assumed the name of “ Supporters of the Bill of Rights.” The preamble to the subscription-paper and the circular letter, ran in these words :

‘ Whereas John Wilkes, esq. has suffered very greatly in his private fortune, from the severe and repeated persecutions he has undergone in behalf of the public ; and as it seems reasonable to us, that the man who suffers for the public good, should be supported by the public ; we,’ &c. &c.

To the circular letter :

‘ The public are, therefore, called upon by every tie of gratitude and humanity, so prevalent in British hearts, to raise an effectual barrier against such oppression, to rescue Mr. Wilkes from his present incumbrances, and to render him easy and independent.’

The third meeting of the society was on the 7th of March, at the same place, when a committee was appointed to inquire into the several demands upon Mr. Wilkes ; and 300l. was immediately sent to Mr. Wilkes for his present use.

At the ninth meeting of the society, which was on the 6th of June, it appeared, that 4553l. had been expended in the composition of debts for Mr. Wilkes : a further sum of 2500l. was ordered to be issued by the treasurers, for the continued composition of Mr. Wilkes's debts ; and 300l. more was sent to Mr. Wilkes for his personal use. After which the society adjourned to the 10th of October.

A journal of the several meetings of the society, and of the business transacted in each is not necessary here. It will be sufficient to state, in general terms, the principal heads of the result.

On the 17th of April, 1770, Mr. Wilkes was released from his imprisonment.

At this time, the accounts of the society stood thus :

Debts of Mr. Wilkes discharged,				
upwards of	7	-	-	£. 12,000
Election expences	-	-	-	2,973
Two fines	-	-	-	1,000
To Mr. Wilkes for his support,	1	0	0	

And 6,821l. of debts remained to be compounded.

During the summer of 1770, the society compounded this remaining sum of 6,821l.* except about 200l. due at Aylesbury †. Much obloquy was cast on Mr. Wilkes concerning this debt. He had been treasurer to the Foundling-hospital, when member for Aylesbury. Some debts had been contracted for the use of the hospital, which Mr. Wilkes had not discharged, although

* It has been supposed, that the society received considerable assistance from some great people. It is proper to correct this mistake; and to declare, that the society never received the smallest assistance from any party, or great man, in administration, or opposition.

† In a short time afterwards, three members of the society went to Aylesbury, and compounded this remnant.

he had received the money. This matter was called a breach of trust; but Mr. Wilkes's own account of it is in these words :

“ The whole of the affair is this—he was to pay the tradesmen's bills at Aylesbury. The hospital issued the money : the tradesmendid not call for it every quarter ; and it was left in Mr. Wilkes's hands. When Mr. Wilkes went abroad, all his private affairs were in the hands of Mr. Cotes; who was afterwards a bankrupt himself, and a great sufferer.”

In what light Mr. Wilkes stood with respect to the tradesmen of Aylesbury, may be seen from the following letter, sent to their representatives at the time when it was currently reported that Mr. Wilkes would not be permitted to take his seat in parliament.

*“ To John Durand, esq.**

“ SIR,

“ FULLY persuaded that the clemency of the best of princes will, if necessary, be at

* Another copy of this letter was directed to Antony Bacon, esq., the other member for Aylesbury.

length exerted in favour of Mr. Wilkes, we hope that, should an attempt be made to deprive him of his seat in parliament, you will, from your connection with us, who are sincere in our friendship for him, prefer lenity, and from your regard to the public, justice to his constituents, before rigour and severity ; and use your utmost endeavours to prevent the success of such a measure.

*“ Aylesbury,
April 30, 1768.”*

“ We are, Sir,

your most humble servants,

EDWARD TERRY
WILLIAM HICKMAN
JOHN DELL
DEV. DAGNALL, JUN.
RICHARD TERRY
JOHN SMITH
JOSEPH GRIMES
THOMAS KIRBY
JOHN PERKINS
JOHN BRETT
DANIEL LATHWELL
JOHN TURREY
FRANCIS HOWSE
HENRY RUSSELL
JOHN PRESTON
ROBERT NEALE,
JOHN BURNHAM

JOHN STEPHENS
WILLIAM PUGH
BENJAMIN BATES
JOHN PLOMER
ROD. HOBBS
THOMAS HILL
JOHN HILL
WILLIAM BROOKE
JOHN RUSSELL
THOMAS SMITH
E. PRICE
JOHN WOODCOCK
H. STONE
ROBERT PATTEN
ROBERT JEMMET
FRANCIS NEALE
HEN. SHERIFE.”

It is proper in this place to state Mr. Wilkes's pecuniary situation at the time of his enlargement. He had an estate of 700l. a year: out of which 200l. was payable to Mrs. Wilkes; and an annuity of 150l. to Mr. Reynolds his attorney, he having purchased the same for 1000l.—so that there remained to Mr. Wilkes no more than 350l. a year. It is true, he had now received 4000l. from lord Halifax: but of this sum, 1200l. was paid to Mr. Reynolds for law charges; and 800l. were paid to liquidate some debts concerning the Bucks militia, when Mr. Wilkes was their colonel. Respecting the other 2000l., Mr. Wilkes stated to the committee of the society, that he was ready to submit the application of that sum to themselves; but the committee thought it a private business, in which they did not choose to interfere.

When Mr. Wilkes was emancipated, and his debts were compounded, a considerable party in the society thought the object of its institution was accomplished. Mr. Wilkes

and his friends thought otherwise. The society had not, they said, made him *easy and independent*, according to the original engagement, stated in the preamble. The members differed very much with each other upon this point: many seceded; and at length the society dissolved.

MR. WILKES'S ENLARGEMENT.

ON the 17th of April, 1770, the securities for Mr. Wilkes's good behaviour being given, and his fines paid, he was discharged from his confinement. Next day he published two addresses, one to his constituents in the county of Middlesex, the other to his constituents in the city of London; which were much admired, and which the reader will find in the note.*

*TO THE GENTLEMEN, CLERGY, AND FREEHOLDERS,
OF THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

GENTLEMEN,

I OBEY the strong impulse of a lively gratitude, when I thus employ the first moments of my liberty to thank

On the 24th of April he was sworn;

you for the many favours you have conferred on me during a long, cruel, and unmerited imprisonment. My sufferings, the two last years, were endeared to me, as well as rendered truly honourable, by the support and protection of the friends of freedom. The trial was, indeed, long and severe, but the most happy consequences have followed. The favourable opinion you were pleased at first to entertain of my integrity and fortitude, has been confirmed on a variety of occasions; and I have experienced as frequent proofs of your unwearied zeal for your country, and steady regard to me. I will go on with the same spirit, in the cause of a brave and free people. To their service, to the defence of the laws, and to the preservation of the religious and civil liberties of the whole British empire, the remainder of my life shall be dedicated. I rely solely and entirely on your protection; and I will form no connection which may, in the smallest degree, warp me from my duty to you, either as the dependant of a minister, or even as the servant of the crown: for I think a representative of the people ought to be perfectly free and unbiassed, in order more effectually to keep every minister in awe, and to oppose every encroachment of the prerogative, against which the house of commons was established as a firm barrier. I will therefore know no influence in parliament but that created by the constitution, that of the constituents over their representative; and I do not mean

as alderman of the ward of Farringdon-without, at Guildhall.

to acknowledge any other constituents than those patriotic friends, by whose favour I am the legal member for the county of Middlesex.

I reflect, gentlemen, with great satisfaction, that the many tedious months of my harsh confinement were not uselessly employed in the common cause of public freedom. I have enjoyed in prison the fruits of my long labours; the glory of destroying that dreaded engine of arbitrary power, so cruelly employed of late, and so often fatal to our countrymen—a general warrant. After every delay of privilege and chicane from May, 1763, an upright jury in last November declared a secretary of state guilty. No punishment, however, has reached that first and great offender. The treasury paid the fine, and the whole expence of the prosecution; and he has been even rewarded with the custody of the privy seal. The very superior abilities of my worthy colleague, Mr. serjeant Glynn, were exerted through the whole of this important cause. To his indefatigable zeal, and love of legal liberty, every subject of this empire has the most essential obligations. I have taken care that all the proceedings in this great struggle of the people against the usurped power of ministers, shall be entered in the proper court; and I hope the *record* will remain *unaltered* to our latest posterity, as a complete triumph of liberty over despotism.

He rented part of a furnished house at

I feel, with indignant sorrow, that I have not been equally successful in another national concern which I had at heart—I mean, a strict parliamentary inquiry into the horrid massacre of our countrymen in St. George's Fields, on the fatal 10th of May, 1768. I gave to the public all the original papers respecting that wicked shedding of innocent blood, by which the land is defiled; and I offered to bring the evidence to the bar of the house of commons. The only hope which now remains to us, is, that the virtue of a future parliament, faithful to the trust reposed in them by the people, will soon pursue the murderers; that justice will at length overtake them; and that the most shocking of all crimes will not be left unpunished. The horror of the action is still fresh in the mind of every man of humanity; and I hold it to be the greatest reproach of our age and nation, that so many of our fellow-subjects have been basely murdered by an inhuman soldiery in St. George's Fields, and other hired ruffians at Brentford, without a single victim to the public justice of our country, to the future security of our lives, or to the violated laws of God and man.

The state of this county, gentlemen, is truly alarming. The house of commons have not only rejected a member chosen by a majority of the freeholders, but likewise obtruded upon you a person whom you never elected. They have openly assumed the whole legisla-

Fulham, for the benefit of the air, and

tive power. By their vote they have declared an incapacity, where the law of the land and common right rendered the party eligible to parliament. This proceeding is a direct attack both on the form and essence of the constitution; a flagrant violation of the fundamental privileges of Englishmen; and a robbery committed on every elector of the kingdom, even in the most invaluable of all his possessions, the right of representation in the house of commons. You have *petitioned*, you have *remonstrated*, in the spirit of true sons of liberty; but in vain. The reason is most manifest. The measure of my expulsion and incapacity was previously settled in the cabinet; and only brought to parliament by the minister in order to go through the common forms, as other business in the usual course of the session. The nation, however, are not the dupes of this artifice, and they regard the present house of commons as no longer a just and fair representative of the collective body of all the electors of this united kingdom; and, therefore, they do not hold that the power and authority of a legal house of parliament is inherent in the assembly now sitting at Westminster.

I am happy, gentlemen, to leave a hateful prison without the least spark of anger or resentment against the authors of all my sufferings. I have no malice nor revenge to gratify. I feel no passion but that of grati-

while his own house in Prince's-court was repairing.

tude to my friends: and my only enemies shall be those of my country; those who still manifest a rooted, unrelenting malice, against the liberties of this kingdom, and who endeavour to intail slavery on us and our posterity. If my persecutions are not yet ended, I will continue to bear up as a man, firm and determined in the best of causes; nor, for your sakes, will I scruple to dare all the vengeance of those wretched ministers, who are now the rulers over us, but possess neither the confidence nor the esteem of the people. If his majesty be graciously pleased to listen to the cries of a loyal but injured nation, and to remove a most corrupt and despotic administration, who are every day basely and desperately stabbing the very vitals of the constitution, I shall then hope to live among you in the enjoyment of the first blessing and the most sovereign good, *liberty*, both personal and political; and, when I can no longer be useful to my country, to die happy, in the applause of the friends of freedom and of England.

I am, with deference and regard,

Gentlemen,

your faithful and obedient humble servant,

April 18, 1770.

JOHN WILKES.

TO THE

He sent his daughter to Paris, on a visit

TO THE WORTHY INHABITANTS OF THE WARD OF
FARRINGTON WITMOUT.

GENTLEMEN, FREEMEN, AND FELLOW CITIZENS,

I CANNOT sufficiently acknowledge and applaud the persevering spirit and cheerfulness with which you have struggled through the various difficulties arising from my inability to attend the duty of this great and respectable ward. My future conduct will best show the sense I have of so singular an obligation. The tedious imprisonment to which I was sentenced for the firm opposition I made to a wicked ministry, is at length happily passed. By regaining my liberty this day, I hope to acquire the power of rendering you real services; and, from the superior rank you have conferred on me, of becoming more eminently useful. I shall not fail to attend the next court of aldermen; when, in support of your rights, I mean to lay claim to, and insist upon, the being admitted and sworn into office, as having the honour of being elected by the general voice of so considerable a part of the city.

It is a particular satisfaction to me, gentlemen, that I am to enter on my duty at a time when we are governed by so excellent a chief magistrate; and have sheriffs of the most liberal principles, zealous promoters of the public good, and of approved virtue. But, above all, I rejoice that the high spirit of liberty, joined with prudence,

to her friends there; which happened to be

temper, and intrepidity, in so peculiar a manner now animates the whole body of the livery of London. The late petition and remonstrance will reflect honour on them to the remotest ages. The English history does not give a stronger instance of the uprightness of our countrymen; nor an example of any body of men more untainted by corruption, more uninfluenced by every consideration of fear or interest, and more calm, yet determined, in a great cause. In the time of the last Stuart king, during the general confusion, when the dastardly tyrant fled, the principal nobility and gentry resorted to our Guildhall for protection; and concerted with our ancestors, the citizens of this metropolis, that generous and equal system of power, which was established by the people at the glorious Revolution, and confirmed by the succeeding parliament in the Bill of Rights. We have seen the most valuable of those rights, the right of representation in parliament, openly violated. On this important occasion, the livery of London have shown themselves the worthy descendants of such ancestors. The petition and the remonstrance have carried that enormous grievance to the throne in a spirited and becoming manner. I trust that their public virtue and firmness will at last triumph over the tyranny of the present administration; and that our sovereign will restore the constitution, thus shaken from its foundation, by the

the more agreeable, on account of its being

speedy dissolution of a house of commons abhorred by all good men, odious to the whole nation, and the validity of whose acts is now daily arraigned by their former constituents. Such a consequence, I think, must soon follow from the noble conduct of this city, and of other great and public-spirited bodies of men. After that happy event, the people of England may expect from their true friends in a future honest parliament, the three essential, and only effectual remedies of this distempered state—acts for the exclusion of placemen and pensioners, for the short duration of parliaments, and for an equal representation.

I know, gentlemen, how much the power and wealth of this great city depend on its trade and commerce; which have always flourished most in the freest states, and never arrived at perfection but under the patronage of liberty. I shall, therefore, be ever ready to receive your directions on these important points; and in whatever relates to the prosperity of this city, and the particular interest of our ward. Every probable plan for the advancement of the common welfare, as well as every mercantile consideration, shall have its due weight in my mind. I will ever be a zealous defender of the rights and privileges of the livery, and of all the freemen of London. In the concerns of this extensive ward, I hope to have the advice and assistance of my constituents;

the period of the dauphin's marriage, (the late French king.)

every one of whom may be assured of that attention and regard, which I owe to those by whose delegated power I act, and for whose interest I accepted this important trust. It shall be my constant and earnest endeavour, to justify to ~~the~~ world the choice you have been pleased to make of me as your alderman; and to approve myself an upright magistrate, and a good citizen of the capital of the British empire. I am,

Gentlemen, Freemen, and Fellow Citizens,

with gratitude and respect,

your affectionate and

obedient humble servant,

April 18, 1770.

JOHN WILKES.

LETTERS

FROM

MR. WILKES TO HIS DAUGHTER,

DURING HER RESIDENCE AT PARIS,

IN THE MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY, JUNE, AND JULY, 1770.

LETTER I.

Prince's-court,

Friday Morning, April 27, 1770.

I HAD the favour of my dearest Polly's two letters yesterday, both together. I cannot express the pleasure they gave me; for, notwithstanding all the laugh of miss Gordon, I think it awkward for ladies to travel without gentlemen: and they cannot so well encounter any difficulties or dangers; which we were made to protect them from. It is the best prerogative of our sex.

I was much pleased that you arrived in such good time at Sittingbourne. The

greatest delay is always at leaving home. I am afraid you will find the time very heavy at Dover; which is dull, as all other sea-ports. There is not yet any letter for you from madame De Chanteraine.

I regretted exceedingly, my dearest Polly, that I could not have the pleasure of accompanying you on your little tour. After I left Prince's-court, I arrived safe at the mansion-house, through an infinite crowd of people, and paid my duty to the lord-mayor; from thence I proceeded to Guild-hall, where was a very full court of aldermen, eighteen in all. I was sworn into office without any opposition; and all the aldermen present took me by the hand, and wished me joy, with great *apparent* cordiality. My lord mayor afterwards took me in the state-coach to the mansion-house; where he gave us, indeed, a most elegant dinner, and the greater part of the aldermen attended. I never heard so loud acclamations, nor so frequently repeated, as through

the day. So much for the city, the city-business, and my brother aldermen.

I am impatient to hear of my dear girl's safe arrival at Paris, and every thing being as she wishes. I beg you to write to me before you embark, as soon as you get to Calais, and afterwards by the first post. If by any accident the two French servants are not arrived at Calais, I advise you to write from thence immediately to madame Chantereine, and to wait her answer at Dessein's: but I trust every thing will be favourable.

I have inclosed to Mrs. Jones *three* letters from the French ambassadress. Pray, pay Mrs. Jones the postage of them to Dover, and put them carefully among your baggage. They are not to go by the post from Calais, and are to be delivered as soon as you arrive at Paris. I have wrote by the post to Joe Paris, who will come to receive your orders. I beg my dear daughter not to travel in the dark; and to drink plentifully of green tea, if she is sea-sick. If, by any accident of contrary winds, &c. you are detained at Do-

ver, be so good to write every post from thence ; and by Dyer, when he returns. No letter is come from madame Chantereine.

Past eleven o'clock.—Good night!—Compliments to madame La Vallerie.

LETTER II.

Prince's-court, May 8.

WHEN I returned here last night, I found my dear daughter's letter from Paris, of the 2d, which gave me the sincerest pleasure. I suspected the little difficulty you found from post-horses, which is increasing every day. Madame de Chantereine is very polite to write to me. I wish that I could write her a better French letter in return than the inclosed is ; but pray assure her of my great regard.

Suard says that he has not received any of the books. You may remember, I sent

a parcel to monsieur Antoine, son of the great hunter. Pray, tell him so : and when you are at Versailles, you may inquire where the mistake is. I should be very sorry if they were lost.

I wish you would give me a particular direction to you, that I may not always write under Suard's cover, but sometimes directly to you at madame De Chantereine's. You may be assured of my writing to my dear girl every post. I shall contrive for your being in France all June, and, I believe, till near the middle of July, when I propose to meet you at Dover ; and we may make a little tour from thence to Margate, &c.

I am determined not to be sheriff, unless the parliament be dissolved before midsummer, of which there is no probability. Lord Mansfield said in the house of lords, that it was impossible to risk a new parliament now, considering the present temper of the nation. To which lord Camden replied : " Then you own the sense of the people is with us ; which you have always denied, and

asserted it was only the cry of a few factious persons."

You will have great pleasure in tracing the dauphiness's route in the book you have. Dessein has not charged too much for the chaise, saddle, &c. and you did very right to keep them ; but you should agree for the chaise's standing, or you will be charged extravagantly, as I know by experience. You managed extremely well by such early hours on the road, and you have travelled with all the expedition of a *courier du cabinet*. As madame De Chanteraine does not keep her coach, I think you should be at all that expence ; and take one by the day or month, as you find best. Do not regard any expence for your pleasures or convenience : I will contrive well for you. I am glad you like François. He may as well attend you quite to Calais, on your return. You had better engage a good *coëffeur* by the week or month. Excuse all these hints, and believe me most affectionately Yours. Adieu !

LETTER III.

Mansion-House, May 11.

I AM here, my dearest Polly, sitting in the seat of justice for the lord-mayor, who has particular business at Westminster; but while I am waiting for the witnesses, I shall pay my compliments to you, although nothing has occurred of late to entertain you. I was at the adjourned sessions at Guildhall, on Friday, from ten till near five, with the recorder, &c. and every thing passed with wonderful good-humour, but dulness reigned triumphant the whole day. I made myself ample amends yesterday, by a visit to Strange's exhibition of pictures; which contains, indeed, some wonderful performances. I saw there Mrs. Angelo, as handsome as ever, who inquired much after you. I drank tea yesterday with Mrs. Glynn and miss Oglander, who greatly regret your absence. Mrs. Glynn is still prettier than she appear-

ed to me through a window in Red-lion-square, 'through a glass dimly.' Miss Oglander has her share of satirical wit; perhaps too large a one for the softer sex.

I have taken a ready-furnished house for a year at Fulham, about four miles from Prince's-court, in a most exquisitely pleasant situation. You will be delighted with your apartment. The house is small, but very convenient. I pay sixty guineas a-year; and my time is to commence from next Wednesday. The title to the house in Berners-street cannot be cleared: I have, therefore, quitted the idea of it, and am in treaty with Mrs. Kent for a house in Prince's-court, the last house next to the Birdcage-walk, on the same side with Mrs. Henley's. It is small, but exceedingly pleasant. The rent is to be fifty guineas a-year. There is an excellent hall. I mean to furnish two print-rooms; one for you, the other for myself. Mrs. Macauley bought-in herself the house in Berners-street, where I visited her yester-

day. I mean to be three or four days in the week at Fulham, all the summer. My Bath tour will probably be prevented by the hurry of business here.

Can my dear girl recollect what she advanced to Mrs. Henley?—Great preparations are making for the masquerade on Monday, at Mrs. Cornelys'.—I mean soon to give up Mrs. Henley's lodgings: and have only one room at the new house in the court, while the other rooms are fitting up there (which will not be long); and all the servants, except one, at Fulham.—I saw Mr. Davidson yesterday, who desired his compliments to you.

To-morrow we are to have another meeting with the lord-mayor; and on Monday a new court of common-council, to consider of another remonstrance. For fear of growing more dull than usual in this thick aldermanic air,

Adieu, my dear daughter, adieu!

LETTER IV.

Prince's-Court, May 29.

I THANK my dearest Polly for her very agreeable letter from Versailles ; and the account she gives of the splendid entertainments there, which is, by far the most agreeable relation I have seen. All our newspapers and the foreign gazettes scarcely contain any thing else. I give the dauphin joy of so handsome a wife ; and, what is more, so good-humoured. He certainly deserves it, when he has so rich a boon as the two kingdoms of France and Navarre to give her : yet I have seen a monarch, who had three kingdoms to give, matched with less beauty than generally falls to the share of a common mechanic.

Since I wrote the above, I have likewise my dear daughter's of May 23 ; and am happy that she is so well after such a fatigue

as a round of pleasures, crowded too close on each other, necessarily occasion. I send you a German account of the dauphiness. You do not mention the colour of her eyes : for the rest, your description brings her before my view.

I have been this morning at the meeting of the commissioners for new-paving Westminster. Lord George Germaine (Sackville) looked very stately. Fitzherbert and I were cold and formal, yet we shook hands : so did Clayton, Tucker, Tuffnell, &c. who were present.

Pray, thank madame Martin, in my name, for her great civilities to you. When you have leisure, I wish you to inquire about China handles of St. Cloud porcelain for knives and forks, and the price. I would purchase three dozen of the large sort of handles, both knives and forks, and two dozen for the dessert, if they do not come too dear ; and have them mounted in England. I have settled it to take a tour to Dover, to bring you back ; and from Dover, an excur-

sion with you to Margate, a very gay place, for a week ; then to Mr. Sawbridge's for two or three days ; and afterwards home, to Fulham. It will be impossible for me to come to France : but you may continue there till the middle of July, as the earliest time for me to come to meet you ; I have so much business.

I believe 20,000 are the greatest number, ever hitherto let off at once. Our famous fire-works for the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle had only 6,000.

My respects to your Bonne.

Adieu, dearest Polly, adieu !

LETTER V.

Fulham, June 5.

I RECEIVED on Sunday morning, my dearest Polly, your little packet by the courier, and mademoiselle de La Vallerie's letter.

Pray, thank madame De Chantereine for the galantry of her present to me. I am exceedingly pleased that you purchased all the enjoyments of Versailles with only a little fatigue, and I hope that is long ago passed. The empress-queen's letter to the dauphin, I think, is polite and tender ; but there is a cant in it, which always made a part of her character. You did not mention particularly about the ball-mask, and if there was a great variety of grotesque figures. The fantastic appearance of such a group of motley forms, makes the pleasure of such an entertainment. What character did madame De Chantereine appear in ?

I have been only once at Vauxhall, with sir Joseph Mawbey, &c. and not once at Ranelagh. I begin to recover the fatigue of visitings and great dinners, which I abominate. I cannot have my new house in Prince's-court till midsummer-day, for Mrs. Hasted's brother does not come to town till the 20th ; which delays all my plans. After I have the house, there must be a thorough

repair, as I am to have a lease for fourteen years : and in all cases I prefer it ; for the excellence of the situation ensures me a tenant if ever I quit it, which I should only do for a house six times as large. I have no small business to do in the city, both this month and the next ; but in August we have holidays, and I wish to pass them with my dear daughter : I wish, therefore, she would contrive to be at Calais on Friday, the 3d of August ; and then she might come, with a favourable wind to Dover, with the Saturday's packet. I will certainly, if I am alive, be at Dover the Friday night ; and after you have reposed yourself there, we will, if you please, proceed together to Margate, and on our other excursions in the county of Kent. I mention my plan as soon as I could be sure of it, that you might more conveniently for yourself take all your arrangements ; and after our return, I hope the smell of the paint, &c. in Prince's-court will be entirely over, and then you may change for this and town, as you choose. I am more

and more pleased with my situation here. Glass, china, &c. I have purchased in abundance. The new servant, Frances (for she is too venerable to say Fanny), behaves very well ; and there is great harmony among the domestics. I have several keys of gardens in this neighbourhood sent to me, so that you will have every kind of amusement in that style here. If madame De Chantereine could contrive to accompany you to England, I should be most happy to see her ; and would endeavour to make her pass the time agreeably in our island. I wish you to press the invitation. I shall contrive to send you some cash on Friday, and again a larger sum before you leave Paris, for your journey and all your little commissions.

You oblige me exceedingly by your tenderness to your young cousin. I am sure he will be disposed to look up to you with gratitude, as his second best friend. Have you seen him dance ? Pray, desire monsieur Cauchoix to do every thing in a handsome manner for him, and to let him enjoy all reasonable

pleasures. I beg you to thank M. de Beaumont for his letter and the pamphlet; which politeness will force me to approve, although I think it is as trifling a performance as any I have seen, as well as frequently erroneous. I did not receive that which he mentions to have sent by Mr. Franklin, nor have I heard Mrs. Macauley mention it. I hope madame De Beaumont is well. She is a truly valuable lady, and adds to all her talents a most charming modesty.

I wish you to inquire if your cousin learns to draw: if he does not, I wish he might begin directly. I dined on Friday with French company, at D'Eon's, and had a very cheerful day. I shall write to D'Espilly as soon as I hear from monsieur Audibert Dupont, at Calais: but I still suspect some mistake about the books. As the Helvetiuses are in the country, if your inclination led you to it, you might pass two or three days with them; and if the distance is too great for an easy day, they would probably meet you half-way. But I wish you quite to fol-

low your own plan : I only hint what you might like, as you may have leisure to follow your own fancy entirely. I am much pleased with mademoiselle La Vallerie's letter.

We have had a great deal of rain ; and scarcely any body has left off fires, much less Mr. Wilkes, who has put up a new grate in the study at Fulham.

I wish my dearest Polly all imaginable happiness, and beg she would present my best respects to madame De Chantereine, the Baronne, &c.

Adieu !

LETTER VI.

*Prince's-Court, Friday Night,
April 27, 1770.*

SINCE I have written to my dear daughter, on the supposition of the wind being favourable, and her having sailed, I have received hers from Dover of last night. I

trust, however, before this, that the wind has changed ; and I shall be impatient to hear of her safe arrival at Paris. Madame de Chantereine's letter, and my longer one, are both gone to Paris ; but I have sent a short one to Dover, and the particulars : and that madame De Chantereine says, St. Jean and another servant were to be at Calais last Sunday, or Monday, to attend you. I wish you a good journey to Paris, and every pleasure there.

Adieu !

LETTER VII.

*Prince's-Court,
Friday, May 4, 1770.*

I HAVE had the very great pleasure of my dear daughter's letter from Calais, and rejoice at her lucky passage. It was well worth waiting for ; and though mademoiselle La Vallerie was so sick, I hope that be-

fore this she has found the benefit of so wholesome an emetic.

Very little material has happened since I wrote last. I find going about not a little troublesome, from the too great partiality of my countrymen. I went last night, for the first time, to a place of public diversion, in Soho-square. The company was good, but not numerous, owing to the ridotto and Almack's being the same night. I was highly entertained, and staid till after two; which, you know, was a scene of great rakery for me. The ladies said that they were ready to pull caps for to dance with me; but I apologized, that I had scarcely yet learnt even to walk, after so long a confinement, much less to dance. Many inquiries were made after you: and a charming miss Johnson, of the city, who was the celebrated peasant with eggs at the last opera-masquerade, sighed when I told her of your tour to Paris, to dance 'with down on your feet,' as Shakespeare says, at the dauphin's wedding. The rooms were gay, and well

lighted ; but the cotillons were danced most execrably.

To-day I have attended a court of aldermen and common-council ; and attended all my own common-council-men, with the vicar of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Reynolds and two parish-clerks. I hope the great hurry of business is now over, and that I shall get leisure to look after my own more immediate affairs. Every thing succeeds to my satisfaction.

I had a letter from Joe Paris, that he handed you out of the packet-boat, and had hired a good chaise for you. He tells me that you set out early on the Sunday morning from Calais ; so that I guess you supped *au coin de la rue St. Florentin*, with your amiable friend, on Tuesday. When you are once safely arrived there, I shall feel no more uneasiness.

Pray, lay me at the feet of the *belle baronne* ; and of madame Helvetius, if she is at Paris. If you wish for any little presents for any of our friends, which your hurry

prevented your buying, let me know, and I will send them. I shall send you another bill, for the expences of your return; and if you choose to make any particular purchases at Paris, I entreat you to deny yourself nothing, nor any pleasure: I can send you more cash.

I have been visited by all the town, but I have let no creature in; and my orders are, never to admit any person, but ladies, J. Churchill, and Reynolds: one for the care of my health; the other, of my substance; as to my soul, you know I am my own chaplain since Churchill's death.

I believe that I shall take the house you liked, in Berners-street; but the title to even a year's lease is not yet settled: I have given Mrs. Henley thirty guineas on account. By your book, about 34l. was due to her, but she could not recollect if you had advanced her any thing or not; so we agreed to leave it unsettled till your return. She behaves very well, so do all the servants: and likewise the cat; whose nails, however,

I shall order to be cut to-morrow, for having a little scratched me to-day. She, or he, is well ; and the bullfinch, and the canary-bird, and the linnet.

I go to Mrs. Cornelys' grand masquerade Monday-sevennight ; and have made me a blue silk domino, as masquerades are likely to be so much in fashion.

Lord Chatham was great on Tuesday. I have not yet been at either house ; to avoid every pretence of a riot, or influencing their debates by a mob. I mean to spend the Whitsun-holidays at Bath ; in order to dissipate a little, after having all this month dispatched the necessary business.

Good night, dear Polly ! and believe me ever

most affectionately yours.

Eleven. — Mr. Sawbridge is quite recovered.

LETTER VIII.

*Prince's-Court,
Tuesday, June 12, 1770.*

I NEVER received a letter which gave me so much pleasure as my dearest daughter's of the last of May. I was exceedingly alarmed by the melancholy accounts we had, of the mischief done at the fire-works given by the city of Paris; and as I knew you meant to be a spectator, I felt an anxiety which I cannot express, till I received your letter. I thank heaven for your safety; but I feel as a man for the distress of the numerous families who are sufferers on this occasion. Pray congratulate madame De Chanteraine from me, on her happy escape; and assure her of the part I take in it.

I continued at Fulham from Friday evening till Monday night. I wrote to my dear girl from Prince's-court before I left Lon-

don, and inclosed to her a draft on monsieur Julien. The little menagerie continue well, and seem to thrive much in the country air. The gold fish too is here. Peggy goes next week to town, to the new house. Dr. Wilson desires you to bring an umbrella for him. I think you would do well to bring two, as the house in Prince's court is at a little distance from the street. The doctor was here yesterday ; and Mrs. Wilson comes to dine next week.—What good, pious company, alderman Wilkes keeps!

I am very glad that Suard has got his books. I am much entertained by your account of the ball given by the emperor's ambassador. I think those given by private persons generally succeed the best ; the reason, I suppose, is, more care is taken, and their private honour is more concerned.—I wrote to my dear Polly my plan for her return: to be at Calais on Friday, the 3d of August ; and to come to Dover in the Saturday's packet. I shall certainly be at Dover the Friday night. The rest of the plan I mentioned in the

letter ; which I hope she received, and approves. I desire you to think of any little elegances agreeable to you, for the house in Prince's-court ; and to purchase them. You have a better opportunity of taking what baggage you like with you ; or of sending it before, to Joseph Paris at Calais. Pray, inquire of Suard the price of the largest and best map of Europe, done on cloth and rollers, to hang up on the walls of a large room ; and be so good to purchase two bird-cages of reed, and painted.

Woodfall's trial for the first publication of Junius's celebrated letter, comes on to-morrow at Guildhall. I wish my dear Polly would pay a visit to our old friend Lady Mary Herbert, *au Temple*. Has Goy been to make a bow to you ?—I trouble you with so many commissions, that I believe it would be easiest to keep a list of the things to be purchased, on a separate paper ; you will have leisure sufficient. Mr. Lloyd, the parson and poet, dined at Fulham with me on Sunday. He will soon publish an excel-

lent satirical poem. My brother and sister, Hayley and niece, dined there yesterday, and in the morning we went to see Chiswick; for which major Labellière has given me six tickets, for four persons each. We were well entertained, and passed an agreeable day. I am never at home at Fulham, but to persons invited. I live there very economically, and eat my morsel in perfect peace and quiet; scarcely wishing for any thing but your company.

How I regret the melancholy which still preys on mademoiselle Helvetius! So elegant a form, and so tender a heart, were surely formed for other things.

I think you should avail yourself as much as you can of your being at Paris, to take lessons of monsieur Cezeron. Pray, what is the price of the picture *en pastel*, which is doing of you for madame De Chantereine? When I mentioned St. Cloud, it was by inadvertence: I meant Sève; to which place, as I remember, the manufacture of Vin-

cennes is removed. I am greatly obliged to your amiable *voisine*, for her intended present.

The Ranelagh fire-works were played off the very day on which the princess dowager of Wales left England; which gave occasion to a variety of *squibs* in our newspapers.

My respects to mademoiselle La Vallerie.

Adieu, dearest Polly!

LETTER IX.

Prince's-Court, Friday, June 15.

THE illness of the lord-mayor* has given me so much employment, that I have but a few minutes to thank my dear daughter for her letter of the 9th of June, which gave me a particular pleasure. We have been very apprehensive for his life: but the danger is now entirely over; although it will be some days before he is able to go on with the city business.

* Beckford.

I approve very much of your desiring madame De Chantereine's picture ; and I shall be glad to see in our house the resemblance of so valuable a friend. I sincerely regret that we cannot have the pleasure of seeing the original in our island ; for, from long experience, I know what charms there are in her conversation. Pray assure her, that the most honourable place in our house shall be allotted to the representation of a lady we so much esteem.

I heartily rejoice at the happy turn Mr. Panchaud's affairs have taken ; and have always regarded him as a man of honour, and a sincere friend.

D'Espilly is very obliging. I wish that, by his means, I could get the prints and your drawings, for the ornament of the new house. Perhaps he* would give up my papers, some of which I much want. D'Es-

* This *he* is plainly some other person : not D'Espilly. Perhaps Ulcot, mentioned in next page, and p. 69.

pilly might feel his pulse about every thing he has. It is incredible how ill he has behaved in every particular.

I advise you to have the *dejeuner* well packed up with the other china, and to bring it with you. A little more trouble about the baggage is trifling, compared to future convenience. I believe Ulcot has likewise a few books belonging to me. I do not wish you to give yourself any more trouble about the St. Cloud handles for knives. If you find some of any other sort of china, cheap and elegant, I wish to have about two dozen knives and two dozen forks, for dinner as well as dessert; and I would have them mounted here. You oblige me exceedingly by your civilities to your young cousin * ; and I hope he is sensible of your goodness to him. Dr. Wilson means a little umbrella to put in his pocket.

Pray, send me a copy of the receipt you gave Ulcot. I think you should avail yourself as much as you can of your stay at Paris, to

* His natural son, mentioned in vol. ii. p. 60.

see Cezeron. Pray mention if Jack* has any ear, and if he has learnt any steps yet. I hope that you got tickets for the Spanish ambassador's ball. Have you seen abbé Arnaud? When you do, pray ask him if he received the Greek Sophocles I sent him.

All your friends whom I have seen, desire many compliments. My respects attend madame De Chantereine, and all our Paris friends. Pray, remember me kindly to mademoiselle La Vallerie.

Adieu, my dearest Polly, adieu !

LETTER X.

*Prince's-court,
Tuesday, June 19.*

I RETURNED here last night from Fulham, my dearest Polly, in order to settle every thing for the new house. I was a

* His natural son.

gardener there, in compliment to you ; for I cut off all the rose-buds of the trees in our little garden, (which is a secret,) to make them blow at the end of the season, when I hope to enjoy your company there after our tour. It has rained incessantly with us for forty-eight hours ; and the sky is still very louring.

I thank my dear daughter for her letter of the 12th, which I received last night. Pray, mention whether you have received the bill of exchange. I will contrive a larger for you in a very few days. Let monsieur De la Porte know how much I think myself obliged to him for his great civilities to you, in the tickets for the Spanish ambassador's ball. Did you not stay the supper ? for by your expression about it I am not clear. Is the dauphiness* happy in France ? and are the French as much pleased with her as the first week ?

My brother and sister, Heaton Wilkes,

* The late unfortunate queen.

Nancy, and Sophy Nesbitt, dined with me at Fulham, on Sunday; and yesterday, *monsieur et madame Vignoles, et mademoiselle leur fille de quinze ans, qui chante à merveille, et D'Eon*, visited me there. The first are a Parisian family, settled here about five years.

I think that you might as well keep the handles for the knives, which madame De Chanteraine is so obliging as to give me, and bring them with you. Pray, desire your cousin* to send me a little specimen of his drawing, as soon as his master thinks it proper; and tell me if he is ever likely to dance half as well as his fair cousin, mademoiselle Wilkes.

I look forwards to the 4th of August with particular pleasure; when I hope to embrace my amiable daughter, and to assure her of the truest regard and tenderness.

Adieu !

* His natural son.

LETTER XI.

*Prince's-court,
Friday, June 22, 1770.*

THIS will be the last day, my dearest Polly, of my being here ; and, therefore, you may suppose me not a little hurried in the removing all my books and furniture. I like the appearance of the house more and more every day ; and I trust I shall be able to make it perfectly agreeable to my dear daughter.

Yesterday morning the lord-mayor* died, to our great grief. He had, of late, behaved with spirit and honour in the cause of liberty ; and was of singular service to what we all have the most at heart.

This day we had a common-hall for the election of a new lord-mayor, in his room. All the aldermen who have served sheriff, were successively put up : but the majority of hands were for Trecothick and Crosby ;

* Beckford.

who will certainly be returned, although a poll is demanded for sir Henry Bankes. It is thought to be a plan to put the sheriffs to a great expence, rather than with any hope of success. Mr. Thomas Oliver is candidate to succeed the late lord-mayor ; both as representative of the city, and alderman. I believe he will succeed in both.

I have your favour of the 15th, and am most happy to hear that you continue well. I am glad Castor and Pollux answered your expectations : but I do not expect much pleasure in the reading a modern opera ; the great beauty of which is in the scenery, in France—in Italy, in the music and scenery.

I expected, of course, all my letters would be opened. They may print them, if they will ; as little more is to be found in them than the effusions of a heart which loves you, and the news of the day.

The colour of the cages I leave to my dear girl's fancy.—What is become of the little poet, Legier ? Is he always at Paris,

and is Suard still his patron?—Pray, make my best compliments to the marquis De Villevielle, and let him know how glad we shall be to see him again in this country.—The *processions* on the *jour de fête Dieu*, were full as amusing to young Smith* as any comedy.—You did very right to purchase mourning for the queen of Denmark.—We will contrive to get all your things from Calais; if not at once, at least by degrees.—I do not think it a reproach to the dauphin to fall asleep twice at a French opera, *provided* that the dauphiness was not there—unless, indeed, she was the occasion of it.

Good night, my dear Polly !

* His natural son.

LETTER XII.

*Guildhall,**Tuesday, June 26, 1770.*

THERE are arrived at miss Wilkes's menagerie, at Fulham, four exquisitely beautiful Indian perroquets, a present to Mr. Wilkes from Portsmouth; likewise, in the garden, two large myrtles and some moss-roses wait her arrival.

The alderman* quitted Mrs. Henly's apartments last Saturday morning, and went to Fulham; but returned to town on Sunday night, to attend the election of sheriffs early yesterday morning. There was, luckily, no opposition; so that we avoid another poll of seven days. That for a successor to the lord-mayor is still going on, and will not be finished till Friday. I attend here three or four hours every day. Every thing goes on according to my most sanguine wishes. The

* Mr. Wilkes himself.

two new sheriffs are Rockingham men*. I lay in the new house on Sunday and yesterday. I like it extremely, and hope that it will please my dear daughter as much.

No will of Beckford is yet found.—I go to Mr. Tooke's on Saturday, for two or three days; to get on horseback, and ramble round the cheerful country after all our fatigues.—I have been not a little engaged, to have every thing at Fulham made as agreeable as possible to you; and I am now engaged in the same pleasing business in town, whenever I can get leisure from these city occupations. I dined on Sunday at Putney, half a mile only from Fulham, with Mr. Oliver, and a large party; and I prophesy that you will have a most agreeable neighbour in Mrs. Oliver, and all that family.

It will not be known till Friday who is to be lord-mayor. Mr. Thomas Oliver will be chosen, I believe, without opposition; both as member for the city, and alderman.

* Joseph Martin and William Baker, esquires.

George Bellas was first proposed, but he resigned in the handsomest manner in favour of Mr. Oliver.

The Olivers, Lovell, &c. always inquire after you, and desire their compliments : so do the Reynoldses, miss West, Jack Churchill, &c.

I wish my dear daughter would mention what the expence of her journey to Paris was, from Calais ; and likewise the expences of her French servants ; with what she intends to give madame De Chantereine's servants, which ought to be very handsome : that I may proportion accordingly what I send for the expences of your return. Two servants should accompany you to Calais, for fear of accidents. Berton and George will both come with me to Dover, the 3d of August. I wish to send you a draft to answer handsomely every purpose ; both for your leaving Paris, purchasing little presents for some favourites, the journey to Calais, &c. Let me know the state of your little

finances, that I may have the pleasure of recruiting them.

I kiss the hands of your amiable landlady, madame Martin, Suard, Saurin, &c.

Adieu !

LETTER XIII.

Guildhall, Friday, June 29.

I HAVE been almost this whole week here, my dearest Polly, engaged in the gravest city business ; so that pleasure has fled far from me. The bewitching goddess, however, returned yesterday, in the shape of a letter from my dearest daughter, which I am greatly obliged to her for ; and this morning I had the satisfaction, by one of monsieur Francis's couriers, of hearing of her perfect health. He likewise brought me the medals and the knives from madame de Chantereine, for which I thank her ; and still more for her kind letter, which I hope

to get time to answer the next post. The medals I think tolerably good, and the knives very elegant. I shall present the medals to Dr. Wilson, in your name.

Pray, desire madame De Chantereine to accept a real American pine-apple; which is just arrived, and the courier takes to-morrow. The pine-apples from the West Indies are thought much superior to those in Europe. I gave the courier half-a-guinea; so that you need not give him any thing. It is the same who brought the knives.

Will you be so good to see baron Holbach, or to write to him; to beg him to purchase for me scarlet cloth enough, of the finest sort and colour, (I think it is called Julien's dye), for a complete suit of clothes—coat, waistcoat, and two pair of breeches; likewise, the most fashionable gold buttons for the whole? I purchased the finest blue cloth for the baron here, with which I complimented him (*entre nous*): but, however, beg the favour of him to give you the little note of what it comes to, with the buttons;

and say that I will send him the cash. You may bring it with you well packed up, or leave it at Calais, as we settle before you leave Paris. A thousand apologies to him for the trouble, and my not writing, being so much engaged. If he is at Grandval, he can get it me, the same, by a line to his draper or taylor.

Mr. Thomas Oliver is taken so very ill, that he has been obliged to keep his bed ; and has given up his canvass, both as representative for the city and alderman. Mr. Richard Oliver succeeds him in both, to the great joy of all our friends.

Alderman Trecothick is chosen this day lord-mayor, and has been sworn in. I accompanied him to the commissioners of the great seal, amid the acclamations of the people the whole way.

It is so late, that I have now only time to wish my dear daughter a good night, and to say

Adieu !

LETTER XIV.

*Prince's-court,
Friday, July 6, 1770.*

I HAVE just had the pleasure, my dearest Polly, of getting you another bill of exchange, which I inclose. I have made it payable in the same manner as the last ; and when I receive your next letter, I shall be able to finish your little money matters, I hope, in the way most agreeable to you. Mention to me whatever sum you wish, and I will send it to you in time. Let me know what day you mean to leave Paris, and your intended route. There is a second volume of the *Indicateur Fidèle*, I think it is called, printed for Desnos, *rue St. Jacques*, which I wish you to purchase for me. I allude to the quarto book of French maps, in a blue cover ; but, perhaps, I mistake the title. —Some account of the second volume you will find in the last page of the book you have.

I send you a newspaper, which contains a few of the nonsensical letters which have made so much noise in the world.—It comes under Suard's cover.

I hope madame De Chantereine received the pine-apple, and that it came safe.—I venture, in French, to thank her for her obliging letter.

I am just now told, that the jury on lord Grosvenor's cause have given his lordship ten thousand pounds damages against the duke of Cumberland.

The city have voted a statue to the late lord-mayor, to be erected in Guildhall, and one thousand pounds for the expence of it.—Mr. Richard Oliver has no opposition hitherto as member; and the election will be next Wednesday or Thursday.

I am going this evening to see the grand fire-works at Ranelagh, with Mrs Reynolds and miss West; I, therefore, wish you already a good night, and am ever

Yours most affectionately.

Adieu!

LETTER XV.

*Prince's-court,
Tuesday, July 10, 1770.*

I INCLOSE my dearest Polly another draft, at only three days date; because I recollect the ten days grace which the Paris bankers always take, and I would give her all the time possible to arrange her little affairs. By the last post, likewise, I sent her another bill, exactly the same, except the date. I wish to know, immediately, if they both came to hand; and if my dear daughter wishes any further draft: if she does, I will send it immediately, by the first return of the post, and at the shortest date possible. I do not know to what amount her commissions are: she will therefore be so good to write fully to me the next post, and I will contrive every thing in the way, and to the extent, most agreeable to herself.

I have the two letters of the 30th of June, and the 3d of July ; which gave me great pleasure. After your arrival at Dover, I have settled every thing for our tour to Margate, Brighthelmstone, and Tunbridge ; so that it will probably be the second week in September before we get to Fulham, or London.

I feel much for the situation of little Legier. He was a pleasing poet, of more sweetness than compass or strength in his note. He owes me some not inconsiderable sums ; which I forgive him heartily, for the pleasure his muse has given me.

I thank you again and again for your great civilities to your cousin.* I desire my compliments of congratulation to the baron, on that friendly earnest of fourscore—the gout. My best respects to messieurs Diderot and Grimm, whose many great and amiable qualities I remember with pleasure.—The lady whom Diderot alludes

* His natural son.

to, I dined with at D'Eon's about a month ago.

I wish by all means that St. Jean may accompany you to Calais, as well as François. I think you might consult madame De Chantereine herself about doing the very handsome thing to her servants; and rather exceed whatever she mentions. You may take a lucky moment, and hint that it was my wish you might always do a generous thing, of which I thought her an excellent judge. Pray, bring the *Deserteur* with you. I did not find in the letter the *fil* for Berton; which, I suppose, you forgot, though you desire me *donner ce fil à Berton*.

I think, if D'Espilly pushes Ulcot, he may get the prints and papers: my manuscripts, at least; which might be taken out of the hand-boxes, and put up in bundles for you to bring with you. Things which will not spoil, you might send before to Joseph Paris, at Calais; and order him to keep them till your arrival. As I shall be at Dover myself, I will contrive getting every thing out of

the packet. Put your name, or mademoiselle La Vallerie's, upon the china and earthen-ware, in capitals. The *déjeuner* must be carefully packed up. I advise you not to leave any thing behind at Paris.

I shall write to the *bonne* next post.

Adieu !

LETTER XVI.

Prince's-court,
Friday, July 20, 1770.

I HAVE just received my dear daughter's letter of the 15th, which gave me very great pleasure ; and I now begin to reckon days, till the joyful meeting I hope to have with her at Dover. Madame Martin is equally polite and amiable : I trust that she knows the high idea I entertain of her. I wish you to bring all the new little *pièces du théâtre*, as well as any new romance which may be tolerable.

I am not quite well : but I am half-stunned by the workmen here ; carpenters, masons, and bricklayers, making the necessary repairs. I leave London this day se'n-night ; and do not return, according to my present plan, till the 10th of September. I am entirely at your service, to ramble around the cheerful counties of Kent and Sussex ; and I fancy we shall take Tunbridge, Margate, and Brighthelmstone, in their turn, during our excursion.

Joseph Paris is now in London.—I find he has quarrelled with the people at Calais, and does not mean to continue there. It is doubtful if he will return there. I believe, therefore, whatever you do not choose to bring with you, you would do well to send before, directed to yourself at Dessein's ; and if you mention to the captain, or his mate, the cloth for me, or if you put it at the bottom of your own trunk, it will come safe. As I shall be at Dover, I will contrive all for you ; only do you let the things be put on shipboard : I shall be ready to receive

and conduct my dearest daughter to her apartments ; at the Ship, I suppose.

I shall only write you one more letter to Paris, which will be on next Tuesday : after which, I shall write to you at Calais the Tuesday following ; which I hope you will find at Dessein's, the end of the week. This will avoid the anxiety of letters being lost, or getting into improper hands.

Your idea about monsieur and madame Cauchoix is excellent.—Pray, give my best compliments to both.—Poor deserted St. Cloud ! Yet, from the beauties of nature, it must be still superior to every thing in the environs of Paris, according to my taste.

My best compliments to madame De Chantereine.

Adieu, dearest Polly, adieu !

LETTER XVII.

*Prince's Court,**Thursday, July 24, 1770.*

YESTERDAY's post brought me the favour of my dearest daughter's letter of the 18th, and the most pleasing news of her perfect health. I suppose the wind has been contrary, which is the reason of your not receiving the bill for 600 *livres*, dated the 10th. If by any accident the letter has miscarried, you may send the second bill for the same sum of the same date, which I now inclose to you; and it will be paid you in the same manner. Second bills were contrived for this very purpose. If the post brings you the first before the receipt of this letter, you will then destroy the second, or bring it with you: it will then be useless. I remember that I inclosed the first under abbé Arnaud's cover. It was payable, as

usual, to madame De Chantereine, *or her order*; so that it will be of no use to any but herself, without her indorsement. I hope, however, my dear girl will have no more difficulty about it.

I dine on Friday at Woolwich, with the court of aldermen; and thence proceed to South Barrow,* where I continue till Mr. Horne's trial on Wednesday morning at Guildford: thence I cross the country to Dartford, and so on to Dover; where I hope to dine on Friday the 3d of August, and to embrace my best-beloved soon after.

I wrote to the *bonne* last post; to wish her, as well as you, a good journey and voyage.

I have just completed an apartment for the *bonne* at Fulham, which is infinitely more convenient than she has ever had hitherto.

I most heartily wish my dearest Polly a good journey to Calais; and will write to her at Dessein's by Friday's post: after

* Country-house of Mr. Reynolds, his attorney.

which I shall be on the ramble till we meet at Dover. Pray, remember all my thankfulness to madame Chantereine for her uncommon favours to you. My best respects attend the Baron, *la Baronne*, Suard, &c. &c. Adieu!

LETTER XVIII.

South Barrow,

Sunday Noon, July 29, 1770.

I AM just returned, with Mr. Reynolds's agreeable family, from Bromley church; and am rewarded for my piety by two letters from my dear daughter, dated the 10th and 22nd of this month. I am extremely happy that this tedious absence is almost run out; and think with more pleasure of the present week than of any for the last three months, as I trust it will bring us together. I dined with the lord-mayor and court of aldermen on Friday, at Woolwich. I went in alder-

man Kirkman's phaeton with him, and then crossed the country to this place in a post-chaise. We had two turtles, and a fulsome great dinner; with the Russian officers of the Eagle man-of-war, which is there. Yesterday I was on horseback all the morning, and in the evening went to see Mrs. Chase; whose print-room I much admired, and the sedateness of the good old lady.

Joe Paris is to be at Dover all the week. I have desired the town-clerk to get us private lodgings; and if you arrive there before me, Joe Paris will conduct you to them. I will contrive to be at Dover as early as I can on Friday; but I shall have to cross the country from Guildford to Bromley, and again from Bromley to Dartford, after Mr. Horne's trial at Guildford, the duration of which is very uncertain. I am very glad that you at last received the last bill of exchange, of the 10th; about the fate of which I began to be suspicious. I hope you will have returned by the same route; because I think it much the best, though one post more.

I advise you by all means to come with the first vessel which goes from Calais after your arrival there, for fear of missing a favourable wind. I do not believe Dessein will charge you more for the chaise; or, at least, very little. I approve exceedingly your presents to madame de Chantereine and mademoiselle Julie, which were very well judged.

All this family desire their best compliments to you; and we have settled a plan for Tunbridge, on our return from Margate.

Remember the tea, if you are indisposed in the vessel. May the most propitious gales waft speedily my dearest daughter to her native country, and to my fond wishes!

Adieu!

MISS WILKES'S RETURN TO ENGLAND.

MISS Wilkes landed at Dover on the 3d of August, 1770; and was met by her father according to appointment. They immediately proceeded to Fulham: and after

a short stay there, they made a little tour into Sussex and Kent. Upon these circumstances an irritated adversary * made some remarks, to which Mr. Wilkes replied in the following words: "My daughter went to Paris at the time of the dauphin's wedding; on the invitation of a lady of fashion, to her own house. I met her at Dover, on her return from France; and during the month of August we made a tour together." He was only absent from London (he says) "while the dog-star raged, when there is a vacation from all city business."

Early in the year 1771 he visited his estates in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Bedfordshire.

* Mr. Horne Tooke; in his controversy with Mr. Wilkes, on the separation of the Society of the Bill of Rights, as mentioned in p. 13, 14 of this volume.

CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN
MR. WILKES AND HIS DAUGHTER,

DURING THE YEARS 1771, 1772, AND 1773.

LETTER I.

February 11, 1771.

I AM impatient to hear of my dear papa's safe arrival; and I sincerely wish he may not have such weather as we have here, which must make his tour disagreeable, and occasion his getting cold. It was so bad yesterday that I would not go to church; and it continues to freeze very hard, with the prospect of a great deal more snow. I went on Saturday afternoon to pay my respects to our good friends in the Cloisters; whom I found very cheerful, though far from well. I have heard nothing worth communicating.

I wish you a most agreeable journey, and I beg you to accept the sincere assurance of the most tender love and duty of your grateful daughter,

MARY WILKES.

LETTER II.

February 12, 1771.

I HAD the pleasure of my dear papa's letter last night, at my return from Lime-street;* and I am happy to know he had a good journey to Cambridge: but very sorry it was such a cold one, and that he has the same prospect of weather as we have here.

The dinner-party yesterday was quite a private one: only Mrs. Reynolds and the two misses; but they both behaved so well, that you will not, I believe, hear any complaints of them.—Frances was here yesterday, after I had wrote.

* At the house of Mr. Reynolds, his attorney.

I dine with my grandmama* to-day. She was so obliging as to invite me on Saturday.

LETTER III.

Upwell,

Wednesday, February 13, 1771.

I ARRIVED here yesterday afternoon, my dearest Polly, from Cambridge, through a wilderness of snow, without the least accident. I found my good tenant and his agreeable family in perfect health, rejoiced to have their landlord under their hospitable roof. The first people, both of Upwell and Sutwell, were assembled, and passed the rest of the day with us; and the ladies did not leave us till one this morning. The supper was quite a splendid entertainment. I was preceded by music, flags flying, &c.; and was accompanied from Wisbeach by

* Mr. Wilkes's own mother.

Mr. Dixon's son-in-law, Mr. Wilson, a considerable merchant.

Mr. Dixon's nephew, a young academic of Cambridge, and two other gentlemen of the university, accompanied me in the tour I made to see the curiosities and buildings. The people followed us in great crowds, with prodigious acclamations. I went, on Sunday evening, to Trinity-college chapel, to hear the service and anthem; which are much admired from the goodness of the organ, and some excellent voices. The anthem was from the 116th Psalm, "*I am well pleased* that the Lord hath heard the voice of my prayer." One of the young gentlemen of the college came up to me, with much politeness; and, with great grace, said, *I am well pleased*: presenting me, at the same time, with the book of anthems; which I gave to a pretty woman near me.

This afternoon we go to Lynn:* where I

* He arrived at Lynn on the 13th of February, 1771; where he was splendidly received, and elegantly enter-

propose to continue till Saturday morning early ; and then to come the direct road to town, through Barton-mills, Newmarket,

tained by the corporation. The following account appeared in the provincial papers :—

He supped in the evening at Mr. alderman Browne's, where he also slept : in the morning he was presented with an occasional poem, bound in morocco ; with the following inscription on the outside, in letters of gold :

Viro prænobili ;
 Non proavis, non titulis, non insigniis,
 Sed virtute ;
 JOHANNI WILKES, armigero :
 qui metu servitutis liberavit
 cives Britannos ;
 qui patriæ libertatem vindicavit
 qui reipublicæ restituit rem :
 Patri Patriæ :
 coronam hanc necti gratus
 jussit Apollo.
 Lennæ, XVI. Cal. Mart.
 M.DCC.LXXI.

The next day, being the first day of the anniversary mart, he attended the procession, with the mayor, aldermen, &c. amidst the acclamations of the people ; and dined with those officers in the town-hall. After he

&c. I shall dine with my dearest daughter on Sunday at four, and wish that she would order a leg of pork : I shall not exceed that hour.

The frost is thought very favourable to this country : but its intenseness is surprising ; and the whole creation seems to suffer by it, except man. I beg you to remember, with my duty to my mother,

had taken the oaths, and had been admitted a member of the corporation, he addressed them as follows :

“ Mr. Mayor, and Gentlemen,

“ I return you my most hearty thanks for the distinguished honour you have conferred on me. I am very happy that my public conduct has been approved by those whose applause I so highly value. To persevere steadily and uniformly in the same line of action in the great cause of the people, to support the noble rights and privileges of this free nation, and with spirit to withstand every encroachment of arbitrary power, is the best return I can make to gentlemen of independent principles and liberal minds, as well as the only way I can shew myself worthy of being admitted a member of this respectable corporation.”

Mr. Dixon's compliments. Do not forget me to your *bonne*. My dearest Polly,

Adieu !

LETTER IV.

Saturday Night.

THE pleasing account of the *famous* Mr. Wilkes was received in Prince's-court with great joy ; and the satisfaction I shared this afternoon with the old lady in Palace-yard.* It is hoped the retirement to Bedfordshire proved quite refreshing ; and that the forbidden fruit occasioned no interruption to its composure. Monday's post will be waited for with great impatience, when I flatter myself to receive as agreeable tidings as I was this day so pleasingly surprised with.

Indeed, my dear papa, I cannot express

* His mother.

how much I am obliged by your kind attention, nor how highly delighted with your letter. It plainly shews the serenity and cheerfulness of mind that have always distinguished you ; and which your *now* possessing so eminently, evinces a greatness of mind truly astonishing. I hope old Ocean received you with calmness, and that you will be witness to only his most beautiful appearances. Among the thoughts which will occur while you are admiring that noble object, I beg my dear papa will most favourably consider the tender duty and affection of his daughter.

My grandmama, and uncle Israel, desired I would present their love.

LETTER V.

*Bull at Rochester,
Thursday, July 18, 1771.*

MY DEAREST POLLY,

I ARRIVED at Woolwich yesterday, about eleven; and found the lord-mayor just landed from the city-barge. We were received with great acclamations from a very numerous people, who assembled to pay their compliments to the city magistrates. We soon embarked on board the Chatham yacht, which was provided for us by the order of the admiralty; and we sailed in her to Gravesend, which we reached between nine and ten. I was kept up till two in the morning as toast-master: and therefore did not choose to embark with the lord-mayor for Rochester (which is a circuit of fifty miles); but preferred coming here, to meet the same company by land, in a post-

chaise (the distance only nine miles.) Our company all joined at dinner; and we are to continue here this evening. To-morrow the corporation of Rochester dine with us; and on Saturday I think I shall return to my dearest daughter.

I never knew a voyage and journey more barren of amusement; but yet I have taken up the pen, because it gives me another opportunity of assuring you of my regard and tenderness.

Adieu!

LETTER VI.

December 26, 1771.

I HOPE this will find you, my dear papa, arrived, in good health, at Bath; and that your expectation of the roads has not been disappointed.

I have inquired twice about the Bath machine; and they have sent me word, from

the place it goes from, that it sets out on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The post-coach the same; and they are the same time upon the road. This will occasion my sending your packet to-morrow. Pray, tell me which day you choose I should send the next, as it cannot go on Tuesday. The machine goes from Fleet-market; the post-coach, from Charing-cross.

Bon jour, mon cher papa!

LETTER VII.

December 27, 1771.

I FLATTER myself, dear papa, with the hopes of hearing from you to-day; the greatest pleasure I can receive in your absence: but as I am to dine with our agreeable friends in Soho-square to-day, I cannot defer writing till after the post. Every opportunity of addressing you is so agreeable to me, that

my heart will not let me miss the opportunity of Mr. Glynn's frank. I hope you have got lodgings that quite answer your purpose. The handsome widow desires her compliments; and begs you to make her apology to miss Gordon, for her not writing: which she is persuaded you will do better for her than she will for herself. Dr. Brocklesby and the major wish you the compliments of the season. Pray, give my affectionate respects to Mr. and Mrs. Clutterbuck.

Adieu!—The tender affection and duty of your grateful daughter constantly attend you.

I have an invitation for Lime-street on Wednesday.

LETTER VIII.

Christmas-day, 1771.

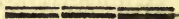
I AM much obliged to my dear papa for his letter; and I flatter myself he is persuaded how happy every proof of his kindness makes me. It will give me great pleasure to send newspapers and letters, as you wish: I am always happy in doing what you desire.—I hope you will receive a turkey and a brace of pheasants to-morrow, quite good.—I am much obliged to you for your goodness about the venison. I have the least wish of sending any to Red-lion-court*.—I sent this morning to Mr. Churchill's, and he is something better.

I most sincerely wish you the compliments of the season; and I beg you to be

* The residence of Mrs. Wilkes and Mrs. Mead.

assured, that my dear papa has the tenderest affection of his grateful and dutiful daughter.

Be so good as to inform me particularly of your health.



LETTER IX.

South Parade, Bath,

Sunday, December 29, 1771.

I HAD the pleasure, my dear Polly, of receiving your letters, and the pheasants, as well as the packet of newspapers, very safe ; and I thank you for your care and attention about them. I have already settled my route for returning to London. Our good friend Mr. Clutterbuck has been here these two days ; and it is settled for me to go to Lucknam house* next Saturday morning from

* Mr. Clutterbuck's residence.

Bath, but to continue there only till Sunday morning. I have therefore but two days to get from thence to town ; so that it will be Monday, the 6th of January, in the evening, before I can get to Prince's-court. —My plan about Salt-hill must be postponed ; but I mean nothing should prevent my being in town on Monday evening.

I have found here a most elegant Paris hand-screen ; which I have made the purchase of, as a Bath tribute to my dear daughter.

I pass my time with my old friends, Nixon, Clutterbuck, Sharpe and family ; Mr. and Mrs. Bull, miss Barnes who is with them, &c. &c. They are so obliging as to dine here to-morrow.—To-day I am going to meet Mr. Walton, at his seat about eight miles from hence ; but I return in the evening.

The new rooms greatly exceed my expectation : and all the late improvements here are in a noble style ; especially Mr. Pulte-

ney's new bridge, building over the Avon, which will be finished next year.

I wish you to send me the next packet by Wednesday's machine, or post-coach; but the daily papers, I mean the Public and Gazetteer, you may send every night till Friday. On Saturday morning I shall get the papers, before I set out for Mr. Clutterbuck's. On Friday and Saturday night be so good to send the Public and Gazetteer; directed to me "at Mr. Smith's, the Castle, at Speenhill, Berks, to be left till called for;" and I shall find them for my amusement on Sunday evening, as I mean to lie there.

Adieu!

LETTER X.

*Prince's-court,
Tuesday Night, Dec. 31, 1771.*

SINCE you left town, the weather has intirely changed, and I am uneasy at the idea of its being no better where you are; which would render the sea-side disagreeable and unwholesome for you.—I received yesterday a note from my mother; desiring me to go for two nights to Clapham, to-morrow, instead of to-day. I am sorry for the alteration, as it will prevent my having the pleasure of doing up your packets on Thursday night; but I shall leave strict charge with the cook, to take care of them. On Friday morning I shall certainly return. This day's post brought me a letter from the widow, who comes back this week. She mentions her son's recovering very favourably, but having been deprived the pleasure of seeing her

daughters. I paid my duty this evening in Palace-yard: and found my grandmama;* who is tolerably well, and very solicitous about your health. That most important object now engrosses all my thoughts and all my wishes: may these be accomplished in your long, very long, preservation to enjoy health and happiness!—Mr. and Mrs. Hayley sent to know how you did this morning.

I flatter myself to-morrow will give me the pleasure of hearing from you, and that the evening coach will bring me your letter to Clapham. Should it contain any directions, I can send them here the next morning.

Agréez, mon cher papa, avec votre indulgence ordinaire, les assurances du respect et de la tendresse de

votre obéissante fille,

MARIE WILKES.

* Mr. Wilkes's mother.

LETTER XI.

*South Parade, Bath,**Jan. 1, 1772.*

AFTER the warmest wishes for a long succession of happy years to my dearest daughter, I shall give her the little history of my time since I wrote last.—I had a very agreeable day with Mr. and Mrs. Walton, and the rest of their family, about ten miles from hence; and was charmed with the true old English hospitality of the season, so rarely met with even at this distance from the capital.—I have passed an evening with Mr. Brereton's family and the two misses Linley. The eldest I think still superior to all the handsome things I have heard of her. She does not seem in the least spoiled by the idle talk of our sex; and is the most modest, pleasing, delicate flower, I

have seen for a great while* : the youngest, a mere coquet ; no sentiment.—Yesterday, I dined at Mrs. Sharpe's, with Mr. Clutterbuck. The Sharpes are the same as you left them, only four years older.—Morris is here, and has visited me.—Mrs. Macaulay has just left Bath.

To-morrow, Mr. Bull and I go to Bristol, where we are to pass the night. The friends of freedom assemble there on the occasion, and give a public dinner. It is thought they will be very numerous.—We could not contrive to return here before Friday noon. That day has not a post to town, and I hope to be there on Monday evening ; so that this is the last time I can pay any compliments to you in the present little excursion.—Mr. Bull leaves Bath on Saturday morning ; when Mr. Clutterbuck's horses come for me, to conduct me to Lucknam-house.—I beg my daughter to order a good fire in my bed-chamber on Monday afternoon.

* Mrs. Sheridan.

You are superior to scandal, and Bath now affords nothing else ; therefore, dearest Polly, good night !

LETTER XII.

January 1, 1772.

I BEGIN the year most agreeably, dear papa, by addressing you, and sincerely wishing you many happy returns of this day.

I am very glad the pheasants arrived safe, and hope they have proved good. I shall be very happy to see my dear father on Monday, and will take care that his apartment shall be well aired.—Mr. Churchill has been here, and looks pretty well. Dr: and Mrs. Wilson are very poorly. Our agreeable friends in Lime-street*, have been so obliging as to send me an invitation for

* Mr. Reynolds, who was Mr. Wilkes's attorney.

to-day ; and no company can give me more pleasure than those who make you often the subject of their conversation.

I asked Mr. Churchill to give me some news for you, but he only desired his best compliments.

That health and happiness may constantly attend you, is my most ardent wish.

LETTER XIII.

Monday Afternoon.

I AM just favoured with my dear papa's letter of yesterday ; which, besides the usual pleasure, affords me an agreeable surprise, as I imagined he was on his little excursion.

The chickens and rabbits have proved very good, and added to the *widow's* admiration and mine of the judgment in marketing of the donor, equal in poultry to what it is in *fish*.

Mr. Reynolds called here this morning, to inquire when you returned ; as he wished to know what would be most agreeable to you to be done at a meeting of your friends, intended to take place in a day or two. I pressed him very much to write you all particulars relating to so interesting a transaction, which I hope he will do. I am much edified by my dear papa's going to church ; and hope his piety will be rewarded with a good sermon whenever he is so well disposed. He would have nothing to wish, were but the prayers granted of a heart that feels for him every sentiment of duty and affection.

LETTER XIV.

Friday, January 3.

I THINK of Monday, dear papa, with great pleasure ; and I flatter myself with the happiness of seeing you a great deal better for the change of air, and dissipation of your journey.

Our friends in Lime-street inquired kindly after you; and you was Mrs. Reynolds's toast.

My uncle Heaton* was so obliging as to call here yesterday. He was very well, and did me the favour of inviting me for Saturday.

I am sorry you will have but two days for your journey; as I am afraid that will occasion your travelling in the dark, which is very disagreeable.

Adieu, dear papa!

LETTER XV.

*Newport, Isle of Wight,
Tuesday, June 9, 1772.*

MY DEAREST POLLY,

I ARRIVED at Cobham on Sunday before twelve, and dined, like a sober citizen, by one; then sauntered through the elysium of Mr. Hamilton's gardens till eight in the

* Mr. Heaton Wilkes.

evening, like the first solitary man through Paradise; and afterwards went to bed before ten. Yesterday I got to Guildford by eleven, and paid my compliments to our good friend Mrs. Waugh and her family: reached Portsmouth at five; dined there with Mr. Sharpe, Stavelay, and Macaulay: went into an open boat at eight, in the smoothest sea and softest evening in the world; and in an hour landed at Ride, in this island, seven miles from Portsmouth.

Mr. Arrey sent, this morning, an elegant post-chaise and four for us, which brought Mr. Stavelay and myself here. The next two days we mean to employ in the tour of the island; and then to return to London, by Southampton, on Saturday or Sunday morning, if the wind is favourable.

My reception here was as distinguished as at Deal, and very handsome even at Portsmouth. All our friends desire their best compliments to you; and we have but one wish—a warm one, I assure you,—for your company with us. Adieu!

LETTER XVI.

*Ride, in the Isle of Wight,
Saturday, Aug. 1.*

MY DEAREST POLLY,

IT was so late on Thursday before I reached Cobham, that I thought it most prudent to lie there : but I rose very early yesterday morning, by which I was enabled to reach this place last night ; and am now proceeding to Mr. Jolliffe's. I had a navigation of only an hour and a half, in an open boat, to this charming spot.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrick arrived at Mr. Fitzmaurice's on Wednesday ; and pass the next week here, I am told.

I wish you to send to know how Mrs. Barrell does in her great affliction:

Bad pens, paper, and ink, at Ride ; but good fish and wine. Unluckily, I can give you none of these latter ; and can only employ

the other to tell my dear daughter that I am well, and always her affectionate father.

Adieu !

LETTER XVII.

August 5, 1772.

I WAS made very happy, dear papa, on my return from Ilford, by the agreeable news of your arrival at the Isle of Wight in good health. I am very glad you are so prudent as not to travel in the dark. I was afraid you would not be able to go as far as you intended on Thursday. My warmest wishes attend my dear papa, for his having a most agreeable tour.

Mr. and Mrs. Molyneux desire their compliments to you, and regret very much their not having had the pleasure of seeing you at Ilford. They did me the favour of receiving me in the most obliging manner.

Mrs. Macaulay was there all the time, which contributed to make the visit extremely agreeable. Your health was remembered constantly.

Le marquis de Pezay has been here; whom, I fancy, you remember very well. He is extremely intimate with baron Holbach, and well acquainted with all his *société*; but particularly with M. Diderot, who has brought him up. He has all their compliments for you, and is very sorry for your absence. He is come to England with a party, one of whom is the bishop of Wilna.

I beg my compliments to all your friends in the Isle of Wight.

Every kind assurance which my dear papa is so good as to give me, has the sincerest return of gratitude; and he will ever have the most tender affection of his dutiful daughter.

LETTER XVIII.

*Shanklin, Isle of Wight,
August 5, 1772.*

MY DEAREST POLLY,

I WROTE to you on Saturday from Ride, the morning after I arrived in this beautiful island. The same day, I came here ; and attended the family of the Jolliffes to a little parish church, with about a tythe of the people, who frequent our chapel.

On my return, as if to reward me for such an act of devotion, I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. and Mrs. Garrick, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. Fitzmaurice, &c ; who carried me away to Knighton, Mr. Fitzmaurice's seat, where I dined, and passed the day. I found the landlord extremely amiable and polite. I met sir Richard Worsley there, and some more Neapolitan acquaintance. Sir Richard has a fine seat in the neighbourhood, called

Apuldurcomb ; where he engaged me to pass Monday, with his mother, sister, &c. Mr. and Mrs. Garrick, and the set from Knighton, came to a grand breakfast, but did not stay till dinner. Miss Worsley, a young lady of fourteen, infinitely engaging, favoured us with some exquisite songs ; and the company paid her the homage due to such merit.

Yesterday I went to the priory, Mr. Grose's seat, on the eastern part of the island ; with the two misses Jolliffe, and a Mr. Hewson, the clergyman here. The house is mean ; but the situation is most beautiful, and the gardens well laid out, although not entirely in the modern style. Portsmouth, Gosport, and the ships at Spithead, are in sight, which give great variety to one part of the view ; and the grandeur of old Ocean, without a prospect of the shore, adds sublimity to it. We returned here last night ; and to-day I am going again to Knighton, by particular invitation. What fine food for political paragraphs ! But I whisper you, that not a syllable has been

hinted of politics ; and I suspect, from the accounts given me here, that lord Shelburne's brother and his lordship have scarcely all the same party ideas : but the conversation was in a much superior strain ; and literature, the *belles-lettres*, human life and manners, find us occupation enough for every kind of reflection and thought.—

Mrs. Garrick is, as usual, the most captivating of the whole circle ; but there is a wife of Mr. Smith, *une femme d'un certain age*, in the style of lady Temple ; very sensible and entertaining, with politeness free from the least affectation of it.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrick are uncertain as to their stay at Knighton ; and Mr. Fitzmaurice, of consequence, undetermined. This throws the same uncertainty on my future plan. I have an idea of a little excursion to Alderney, the remains of the Norman duchy ; but the doubt of when I may get back alarms me, although the common passage is only six hours : I must therefore, I suspect, give

up that idea. I beg you to keep all letters, &c. for the present; and in a day or two I will mention how and where I wish them to be sent.

I hope my dear daughter has amused herself well in her little excursion, and shall be most happy to hear a favourable account of her health.

Adieu !

LETTER XIX.

Lymington,
Saturday Night, Aug. 8, 1772.

MY DEAREST POLLY,

I AM just arrived here, after a short and agreeable passage from the Isle of Wight; where I left all our friends well, except poor Garrick, who complains terribly of the stone.—He, Mrs. Garrick, and Mr. Fitzmaurice, gave me many most agreeable hours at Knighton.

I have only time to thank you for your entertaining letter, which I received this morning, and likewise all the newspapers. Be so good as to order George to take the packet of all the newspapers and letters to the Rose, at Holborn-bridge; and let them be booked at the inn, directed for me "at the Angel, in Lymington, by the Southampton stage." I wish them to be sent on Tuesday; and after that time, I shall think of soon returning to my dearest daughter.

Eleven.

Adieu!

LETTER XX.

Plymouth,

Friday, Aug. 14, 1772.

I EMBARKED, my dearest Polly, at Lymington, early on Monday morning: but the wind soon became unfavourable; and blew so hard, that we were obliged that af-

ternoon to put into Swanage, a rascally dirty little town in Dorsetshire, where I was surfeited with compliments, and stunned with the ringing of bells, &c.

Tuesday I went again early on board the sloop, with little better success ; for the wind was so contrary, we could only make West Lulworth, a delightful village and little bay in Dorsetshire. I employed the afternoon in visiting a fine old seat of Mr. Weld, about three miles distant, called Lulworth-castle ; and on Wednesday, at four, I re-embarked. The whole day, we beat about with little wind ; but at last we made Brixham-quay, in Torbay, the place where king William landed, about four on Thursday morning. I was ready to fall on my knees on the sacred spot ; and could scarcely leave the holy steps on which he landed to rescue a wretched people from slavery and the Stuarts. I was provoked to find no pyramid, obelisk, nor the least public memorial, on such a spot : but I hope the memory of that event is engraven on the hearts of the people ; who

seem to me, in that part of Devonshire, very staunch to the cause of liberty.

I hired horses at six yesterday morning to Totness, nine miles from Brixham-quay, where I dined ; and in the evening reached this place, twenty-four miles from Totness. I was so fatigued with my voyage, that I sent the sloop back from Brixham-quay ; and I now intend to take my course back entirely by land.

I have been to-day in raptures with the beauties of Mount Edgecumbe, and I never wished for my dear daughter's company more than to enjoy them with me ; but I was very much pleased you had not all the irksome tediousness and inconveniences of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, to encounter.

We have here the most noble and sublime prospect I have seen, with many soft and delicate beauties intermixed. The main ocean, an immense dock yard, a large town, many large ships, great woods and lawns, &c. &c.

Mr. Squire has been my conductor ; although I see him in great affliction for the loss of his youngest son, who died on Thursday night.

I am just returned from a long walk with him and Mr. Jones, a North Carolina gentleman just arrived ; and have now only time to wish you a good night, and to say that I shall write to my dear Polly from Exeter on Monday or Tuesday, as I mean to be there on one of those days.

Adieu !

LETTER XXI.

August 11, 1772.

I AM extremely obliged to you, dear papa, for your kind letters : that from Shanklin I had the pleasure of receiving on Saturday ; and the last, yesterday. I am very happy to know you are well, and that you have passed your time so agreeably in the Isle of Wight :

I sincerely wish the remainder of your tour may give you equal pleasure with the first part. I am very sorry poor Garrick has such a dreadful disorder.

I was on Sunday at my uncle's, at Twickenham; and, to my great concern, found the family in affliction. As he was returning there on Saturday night in his whiskey, the horse took fright at a heap of rubbish near home; and the whiskey went with such force against a post, as to throw him out, and occasion the misfortune of his breaking a rib very near the back-bone. Falling on his face, it is cut in several places, and much bruised. The same surgeon attends him who set his arm; and he has given hopes that my uncle's confinement will be short. He has happily had no fever.—My cousin Jack was with him, and thrown out at the same time; but fortunately received no hurt. The coachman attended them, on horseback. My uncle was too ill to see me, and has desired that his friends will not come to him at present.

Mrs. Barrell is pretty well.—I intend calling on her to-morrow.

I am sure you will share the pleasure which the generosity shewn to Mr. James, &c. gives me ; which makes me not delay to inform you of it. The creditors have given up Mrs. James and Mrs. Down's settlements ; the former of which is 160*l.* and the latter 200*l.* a-year : made the partners a present of 100*l.* each ; and given them all their town furniture, with the ladies' jewels. There has been a subscription at Clapham for Mr. James, of 500*l.* : and several gentlemen there offered to lend him 200*l.* each, at 2 *per cent.*, to go into business ; but he declined it.

I am a little surprised at your leaving the Isle of Wight so soon, from what you wrote to me in your obliging and entertaining letter from Shanklin.

Adieu, dear papa !

May health and pleasure attend you !

Jones was not executed this morning, and is said to be pardoned.

I have just had the pleasure of hearing that my uncle is well enough to get up.

LETTER XXII.

August 16, 1772.

I HOPE this will find my dear papa returned, in perfect health, from his little voyage to Plymouth ; which, it gives me pleasure to think, has been an agreeable excursion. We continue to have delightful weather, and I hope you have the same enjoyment.

I have just seen my cousin Jack ; who brought me the pleasing account of my uncle's being surprisingly well, with an obliging letter from him on account of this day, in which he desires his kindest love to you.

Mr. Hayley was at home when I sent. My cousin is just the same ; the rest of the

family very well. I found Mrs. Barrell better than I expected. She desired her compliments.

I paid my respects in the Cloisters on Friday evening, and our friends inquired very kindly after you.

I have not seen the bishop of Wilna. The marquis De Pezay intends bringing him here when you return. I believe that party are gone on a tour.—I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. and Mrs. Molyneux, and Mrs. Macaulay, here on Thursday. They desired their compliments. The former favoured me with a very obliging invitation into Norfolk; with the kind addition of offering to send for me great part of the way. Mrs. Macaulay will be there the remainder of the summer. She told me she was engaged to go to the Isle of Wight; and would have been very glad if she could have gone while you was there.

I hope you have received the parcels.

Accept my sincere thanks for the satisfaction you are so kind as to express at my

pleasures; and I beg leave to add, that yours always make me happy.

Continue, dear papa, your kind affection and goodness to your grateful daughter; whose heart feels every sentiment she owes you, above expression.

[Miss Wilkes accepted of the invitation, mentioned in the preceding letter, to the house of Mr. Crisp Molyneux, at Garboldisham, in Norfolk; from whence she sent the six following letters to her father.]

*Bury,
Saturday Morning.*

DEAR PAPA,

I TAKE the liberty of informing you of my arrival here; as I remember the letters from Garboldisham are received only the third day, and I cannot learn here when the post sets out from thence. I will have the pleasure of writing to you as soon as possible. I lay at Sudbury, where I arrived a little after six. I have had a very pleasant journey, without the least accident.

Bon jour, mon cher papa !

*Garboldisham,
Sunday Afternoon.*

I HOPE, dear papa, you will have received my letter from Bury before this reaches you. I would not miss that opportunity of having

the pleasure of writing to you. I had a pleasant ride from thence here.

Mr. and Mrs. Molyneux received me in the most obliging manner. I am under the necessity of deferring an account of this place, as my letter is waited for. I shall only say, it is very pleasant.

I hope for the favour of hearing from you ; and beg that of staying till Saturday or Monday. The direction is only to this place, "Norfolk." Accept, dear papa, the assurance of my affection and duty ; and that of my gratitude for my coming here.

I will do myself the pleasure of writing to you to-morrow. I have not heard of any of the family's going to town very soon.

Garboldisham.

DEAR PAPA,

I AM happy in having another opportunity of writing to you ; and I hope very soon for the favour of a letter.

Mr. and Mrs. Molyneux, and the company here, desire their compliments. This situation, and the country round it, are very pleasant. There is a good garden, with a very pretty wood. The house is good and convenient, but does not stand high : it has, however, an agreeable prospect. The company have perfect freedom given them here ; and we are nine at table.

Be always persuaded, dear papa, of the tender affection and gratitude of your ever dutiful daughter.

Garboldisham.

DEAR PAPA,

I TAKE the opportunity of the Norwich coach, to have the pleasure of paying you my duty : as I find that, if I was to write by to-morrow's post, you would not receive my letter till Monday ; and by this conveyance it will reach you to-morrow.

We arrived here last night, after a very good journey. On Thursday we lay at Hockrell, in Cambridgeshire, thirty miles from town ; and had not any rain after we left Walthamstow. Yesterday the weather was as favourable for us as possible. We came quite a different road to that I did when I was here before ; through Chesterford, Newmarket, and Thetford : a very pleasant and good one ; and, I believe, a little nearer. We are quite well. Mrs. Moly-

neux has been so obliging as to mention going to Houghton and Holcombe ; but has not fixed the day for setting out on that tour. She has not heard yet of the arrival of the travellers at Paris.

I shall acquaint my dear papa with the plan of our excursion in my next letter. I will inquire the distances ; and if it should not take place till after next week, I think it will certainly be best for me not to return here. We are to go in Mrs. Molyneux's coach ; and Mr. Crisp Molyneux is to be of the party. He comes down in a few days, with another gentleman. At present, there is only his brother here. I shall be very happy to hear from my dear papa ; and I beg he will inform me of a health which is, and ought to be, the dearest to me. Henry had a good journey, and is better.

Je vous prie de faire mil complimens pour moi à monsieur Smith.* I have the deepest

* Mr. Wilkes's natural son : her *cousin*, as he is elsewhere styled.

sense, dear papa, of your goodness ; and it is my first pleasure to shew myself your dutiful and affectionate daughter,

MARY WILKES.

I hope to have the pleasure of a letter from you in a very few days. Henri begs you to receive her duty.

Garboldisham.

I HAD the pleasure, dear papa, of paying you my duty by the Norwich coach, on Saturday ; but, for fear that some accident may have happened to my letter, I will not delay repeating it, and mentioning a second time our good journey : I hope, however, to find the contrary, as I have been assured that conveyance is very secure. I therein informed you of Mrs. Molyneux's kind intention of taking me to Holcombe and Houghton. Tuesday is the day for seeing lady Leices-

ter's ; and we shall set out on this excursion on Monday, if my dear papa favours me with his leave. We are to go in the coach or post-chaise, and have gentlemen. On thinking more about it, I fancy it will be proper, and best for me, to return here; not to let Mrs. Molyneux come back alone ; and for my going to town, on account of Henri and my baggage. I beg to know your opinion, which I am always happy to conform to. The tour will take up but a little time ; so that it will make only a short delay (if any) of my return to town. I beg the favour of your indulgence till the latter end of next week, in case it should take longer than I imagine.

Mrs. Molyneux desires her compliments, and would be very glad to see you here. So far from wishing to stay longer than the time you have been so good as to permit me, it would quite give me concern to lengthen my absence from my dear papa.

Mr. Molyneux and his family are safely

arrived at Paris. The gentlemen that I mentioned are expected on Saturday.

I am ever, dear papa, with the most tender affection,

your dutiful and grateful daughter,

MARY WILKES.

I count the days till I have the pleasure of hearing from you.

Garboldisham, Sunday.

I HAVE had, dear papa, the great pleasure of your two kind letters; which have the sincerest return of gratitude, and have made me happy in the favourable account of your health. As you are so good as to leave me to plan for my return, I take the earliest day to mention what I have thought (if it has your approbation) of doing after our tour has been quite settled; as Mrs. Molyneux waited to determine, till she had con-

sulted some gentlemen of this country, and who have before gone it. We set out to-morrow early, and propose returning on Wednesday or Thursday. I mentioned bearing part of the expence ; but Mrs. Molyneux was so obliging as to decline it. This circumstance makes the money I have quite sufficient : I am deeply sensible of my dear papa's goodness in thinking of sending me more.

Mrs. Molyneux will do me the favour of letting me have her post-chaise to Bury, sixteen miles from hence.—I shall be much obliged to you to send William to the Angel-inn at that place, by the coach, which comes there on Saturday evening next ; and I will be there on Sunday very early, if agreeable to you for me to go to town in one day. I should prefer that ; but if you like better my lying on the road, I shall have the happiness of paying my duty to my dear papa on Monday.—I am informed an outside passenger of the Bury coach pays nine shillings ; which would be much cheaper for William to come by, than

on horseback. It goes from the Black Bull, in Bishopsgate-street, on Friday night. My only reason for fixing on *Sunday*, is the expence of his being a day at Bury; and if he did not come on the Saturday, he could not be there till the Tuesday. Should my dear papa have the least objection to my travelling that day, I will set out on Monday, or if he thinks William should have a day's rest, before he rides seventy-two miles.

Mrs. Molyneux desires her compliments, and is extremely sorry not to see you. We dined yesterday at Mr. Woodley's, (who was governor of the Leeward Islands,) at Quidenham; a seat of Lord Albemarle's, and a pretty place. There was a turtle; and a very elegant dinner, with a service of plate. It was a very agreeable day.

Mrs. Molyneux is so kind as to say she wishes me to stay longer; but I cannot think of delaying my return where my

heart pays the tribute so much due, of duty, affection, and gratitude.

Many thanks for the French papers.—
The post comes here every day, except Tuesday.

LETTER XXIII.

Exeter,

Monday, August 17, 1772.

I ARRIVED here, dearest Polly, this morning; and the first person I saw was Charles Pearce's brother, who insisted on my coming to Charles's house, who received me with open arms. Yesterday, I came to Ivy-bridge, eleven miles from Exeter, with all Mr. Squire's family; and after dinner the ladies joined me in libations to my dear daughter's health, and many happy anniver-

saries*. My joy would have been complete if you had been of the party. That circumstance only was wanting; for the scene, the country, the company, were as gay and as pleasing as possible.

I write this from Charles Pearce's house: and this evening I leave Exeter, and go with him to Exmouth; where he has, as they say, a sweet country retirement.

I beg the favour of you to send to Lymington, by Friday's coach, all letters and the newspapers. After that, I mean to return to town; and wish you to keep every thing till next week, when I shall have the pleasure of rejoining you in Prince's-court.

I hope to write to you on Wednesday from Weymouth, where I intend to pass one day.

Adieu!

* The 16th of August was miss Wilkes's birth-day.

LETTER XXIV.

*Thursday Night,
August 20, 1772.*

I HAD the pleasure, dear papa, of receiving your kind letter from Exeter this evening, on my return from walking. I have sent the letters and newspapers by the Lymington coach; but, for fear of making them too late, I take this conveyance for writing. —I had your favour from Plymouth on Monday.

I am very happy you pass your time so agreeably. Receive my best thanks for your kind remembrance on my birth-day: what has been my most pleasing occupation in the years I have already passed, will always continue to be so; the shewing my sentiments for my dear papa, whenever he does me the pleasure of thinking on me. I beg him to be persuaded of my most tender affection, duty, and gratitude.

I have not heard any private news worth communicating: you will have all the public from the papers.

It always gives me the greatest pleasure to see you; and I am very grateful for the moments you are so indulgent as to give me in your absence.

Bon soir, mon cher papa! Je vous embrasse tendrement, en vous souhaitant un bon voyage.

LETTER XXV.

*Lymington,
Sunday, August 23.*

I ARRIVED here, my dearest Polly, on Friday night. After I wrote to you on Monday from Exeter, the people here were so unanimous and so violent in their expressions of zeal to me, that I thought it most prudent the same evening to accept an invi-

tation of Mr. Pearce's to Exmouth, a fishing village about ten miles from Exeter; and I came there with the family in their coach. The next day I went with them, by water, to Mr. Remnant's, at Star Cross, where we all passed the day and night: and at one on Wednesday morning I returned by water to Exmouth; went to bed till five; then proceeded on horseback, with Mr. Pearce's brother, to Sidmouth; and from thence to Lime, where I lay. I found there Mr. Thomas Hollis, and other true friends of liberty; with whom I passed the remainder of the day. On Thursday I reached Weymouth, in the evening. I sent my compliments to Mr. Oliver, who was too ill to see company. Mr. Horne was likewise there, to whom I did not send any compliment. I left Weymouth, a melancholy disagreeable town, early on Friday morning, and got here by nine at night.

I found the letters and parcels here from my dear daughter; and I thank her much for her care and attention.

I was much concerned for my dear daughter's accident : but Mr. Saxby, whom I saw at Exeter, assured me it would not be attended by any alarming consequences ; and I am happy that your letter confirms that account.

Mr. and Mrs. Molyneux are very obliging to give you an invitation to Norfolk. If your own inclination meets it, I can have no objection ; but I must be fixed to the capital till after Michaelmas. I have a plan of a tour for you in October, for a few days ; but that need not interfere with an excursion to Norfolk, in September. I hope to be in town on Friday or Saturday ; and then we will try to shape it in the most agreeable form to Mr. and Mrs. Molyneux, as well as yourself. I can accompany you thirty or forty miles ; but I suppose their distance exceeds a hundred.

I wish you now to keep all letters and papers till my return, which I shall be able to fix by the next post : but as Salisbury is not much out of the road, I have an idea of

seeing that place and Wilton, which is very near it, before my return ; or else, Midhurst and Petworth, on the other road.

My dearest Polly, adieu !

LETTER XXVI.

Petworth,

Tuesday, August 25.

I HOPE that my dearest daughter received my letter from Lymington, which I wrote on Sunday. Afterwards I went to Southampton, where I staid only half an hour ; and proceeded to Gosport, where I passed the evening with our agreeable friends, Mr. and Mrs. Brett. Yesterday morning I surveyed the dock-yard and store-houses at Portsmouth ; and came on through Chichester to Medhurst. This morning I visited lord Montacute's noble seat at Cowdry, with fresh satisfaction. I am told that the fine

paintings there of Hans Holbein, are soon to be engraved by that great artist, Strange. The young lord, a fine boy of five years old, came to ask Mr. Wilkes how he did, and hoped that he was well.

I am going this afternoon to review Petworth, and intend in the evening to proceed to Godalmin; so that in all probability I shall have the happiness of seeing my dearest Polly to-morrow evening, in Prince's-court: but I have doubts about this evening's journey, as we have very heavy rains here at present. If I am detained on the road beyond to-morrow, (which, I trust, will not be the case,) I shall certainly dine in Prince's-court on Thursday.

I am, thank heaven, in perfect health; and always

My dear girl's

very affectionate father.

Adieu!

LETTER XXVII.

*Prince's-Court,**Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1772.*

I RECEIVED the favour of both your letters from Bury and Garboldisham. I am very happy you have had so good a journey, and such favourable weather. I trust that the same will attend you the time of your stay in the country, and on the road.

My fate has been to attend a tedious and melancholy session at the Old Bailey, which we hope to close on Saturday. Yesterday however, after two in the afternoon, I went to Deptford; and dined most agreeably, as well as superbly, on board an East Indian ship, just arrived; and, in the evening, returned here. The hospitality and magnificence of those captains are beyond description; but the monstrous cruelty and wickedness of many of these tyrants of the East were present to my mind the whole

time. Our captain, Stainforth, had been exemplary humane and good.

Let me desire you to make my best compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Molyneux ; and to the noble English historian who does so great honour to her own sex, and ought to cover ours with blushes.*

Mr. Martin does not accept the aldermanship ; and it is uncertain who will be chosen for Lime-street ward.

I should be sorry to abridge my dear daughter's pleasures, or hasten her return beyond what was agreeable to herself : but a court of aldermen being summoned for next Tuesday, I wish George then in town, to attend according to the form ; and it will be the last day of my attendance.

The marquis De Pezay is gone to the west.

I do not write under cover to Mr. Molyneux, lest he should be from home.

Adieu, dear Polly, adieu !

* Mrs. Macaulay (Graham).

LETTER XXVIII.

*Newhampton,**Sunday, July 25, 1773.*

I HAD a very good journey to this place ; where I arrived last night between eight and nine, having sauntered an hour or two at Horsham fair. I wish you to mention to Mr. Cotes, that the direct road through Billinghamurst is impracticable, from the depth of the clay : but there is a good turnpike-road from Dorking, through Horsham, to Steyning ; from whence you come over the Downs, and through two or three sweet villages ; then six miles on the strand, to Newhampton.

I have essential objections to this place ; from some neighbouring fens and marshes, which corrupt the air. Last night, in the little walk I took, it was in some places very offensive. The coast is too low ; and not unlike Margate, although preferable. I do not believe my stay here will be long, per-

haps only three or four days after Mr. and Mrs. Cotes's arrival : but I am sure it* would not please you. I will use all my influence with Mr. Cotes, to dissuade him from the intended purchase here.—All this *entre nous*.

I beg the favour of you to send the papers, &c. by Mr. Cotes, if he comes on Wednesday or Thursday : if he does not, be so good only to give me a line by the post, to the George at Arundel.

No wheatears have been yet seen in these parts this season.

My best compliments and wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Cotes for a good journey.

I am very comfortably lodged here at a good widow's, Mrs. Scarwell's : with nine children ; eleven pigs ; eight geese ; three turkeys ; one grand-signior cock, with a seraglio of seven hens, who have all separate feather-beds of their own ; &c. &c.

Good morrow !—Just putting on my hat, to attend the females to church.

* The situation.

LETTER XXIX.

London, July 27, 1773.

I FLATTER myself, dear papa, it will be agreeable to you to receive your letters by Mr. Cotes, and I am happy in the opportunity. I hope, on my return to-morrow, to have the pleasure of finding a letter informing me of your health and safe arrival, with the account of your liking Little Hampton. I am happy in thinking you will have an agreeable excursion. I have wrote to Mrs. Reynolds, to wait on her the latter end of next week. Yesterday afternoon I had the pleasure of seeing my grandmother Wilkes, who was much satisfied with your kind attention. She has taken a house in Palace-yard, and was so good to take me to see it. I think it extremely pretty, and very chearful; having a view up Palace-yard from the front, and backwards of Westminster-bridge and the river. It is remarkably neat, and

does not want painting or white-washing. She is quite delighted with it. I waited afterwards on the bride.

My uncle Heaton came to me while I was there. He returned with my aunt and cousin on Sunday night.—I am unhappy to have to communicate a most shocking accident that has happened to my aunt. The party was going in two post-chaises to see a seat in Derbyshire. Mrs. Wilkes was in the first, with Mrs. Turton and a gentleman: an unruly horse was to it, with a boy for driver: it overturned them before they had gone a quarter of a mile. Mrs. Turton fell over my aunt, through the glass, and hurt her most terribly. She had the symptoms of her scull being fractured; but happily that is not the case. She did not know my uncle for several hours, and has been deprived of her senses almost ever since. She sees very little; and does not hear, unless spoke to very loud. Two great swellings which she has over one eye and on one of her jaws, must be opened. My

uncle said she was out of danger : God grant it ! but I am much afraid. She sleeps a great deal, which makes a lethargy to be apprehended. My uncle is to consult Mr. Grindall this morning : I will send you his opinion. He told us poor Nancy was as much altered as if she had had a fit of illness. You may depend on my paying all the attention in my power, on this melancholy occasion.—My uncle is pretty well, and desired his love. Mrs. Turton was terribly cut by the glass, under the chin. She was taken up covered with blood ; and was so bruised, that all over her body not a place as big as a hand that was not black. She was, however, declared to be in no danger. There was happily an eminent surgeon near, who bled my aunt violently the next day.

With the most tender affection, and the deepest sense of your goodness,

I am, inviolably,

your dutiful daughter,

MARY WILKES.

LETTER XXX.

*Little Hampton,
Thursday, July 29.*

I AM in hourly expectation of the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Cotes. Your letter by them will determine me as to my future stay, and the account they will give me of their intentions for the next fortnight.

Monday I walked to Arundel, three miles and a half; and returned here in the afternoon. Yesterday and Tuesday I rode half the day along the beach, conversing with old Ocean. The country is very pleasant; but at the end of the year, I believe, far from healthy, on account of the marshes.

The gunner's house which Mr. Cotes mentioned for you, is very pleasantly situated; but there is a family in it, who will continue there another fortnight.

I am continually on the sea-coast, enjoying the boundless view of such an amazing expanse of water, the most sublime of all ideas; but I long for the company I like best, without which all other pleasures are incomplete.

I live on fish and mutton, with a very little wine; and am, thank heaven, in perfect health.

Let me beg of you not to heat yourself too much in riding, if you go to South Barrow.

Adieu!

LETTER XXXI.

*Little Hampton,
Friday, July 30.*

MR. and Mrs. Cotes arrived here, my dear daughter, yesterday evening, and brought your letter of the 27th; which has given me the greatest concern on my sister Heaton's

account. I fear, the accident will prove fatal to her ; and that we shall lose a valuable friend, as well as agreeable relation, and a life of great importance to her family. The symptom of her sleepiness is very alarming.

Every day convinces me more and more that this place would not please you, even for a week. Mr. and Mrs. Cotes intend to continue here near a month longer : but I intend next Sunday (after church) (pray mind these two parentheses) to go to Broadwater ; and to lie there, in order to be ready for the great fishery the next morning at Worthing, only one mile distant. It is between three and four in the morning.—On Monday night I hope to lie at Brighthelmstone, and to stay there till Thursday morning. A post goes every day to Brighthelmstone ; so that I shall receive there your letters of Monday or Tuesday night. But I wish my dear daughter not to write to me there after Tuesday night. I shall be very anxious to know the state of my poor sister

Heaton's health.—From Brighthelmstone, it is my present intention to go to Eastbourn ; and if I find the place and accommodations agreeable, I will contrive about your coming there for a week or ten days, and I will meet you on the road. If it should turn out otherwise, I shall soon return to town, and close my vacation. Eastbourn is but a few miles from Lewes, and you know how good the roads are to that place. I shall certainly write to you from Brighthelmstone, and will give you several days notice of my plan ; therefore pray follow your own as to Mrs. Reynolds.

Mr. and Mrs. Cotes send you many compliments. It has rained this whole day, and we have not stirred out ; but Mr. Cotes is most usefully employed, in dressing a noble salmon-trout and some mullets. No coach goes from Arundel, and only a waggon once a week, or I should have sent you fish. I hope to contrive some wheatears for you from Brighthelmstone. Adieu !

LETTER XXXII.

London, July 31, 1773.

I RECEIVED with great pleasure the favour of your letter. I am sorry it was not in time to communicate to Mr. and Mrs. Cotes what you desired, as I did not get it till Wednesday morning. I am very glad to inform you my aunt is better: Mr. Grindall attends her.

I have just now the pleasure of your second letter, and am made happy by the information of your perfect health. I am sorry the place is not quite agreeable to you; but I think with great satisfaction of your having a fine view of the sea, knowing the pleasure it gives you. I feel with gratitude your kindness in wishing me with you: I flatter myself you do justice to the sentiments which always make me happy in your company. I am surprised Mr. and Mrs.

Cotes were not arrived on Thursday. Pray, make my best compliments to them.

Mrs. Reynolds has desired me to go to South Barrow on Wednesday. I return you a thousand thanks for your kind caution, and will certainly observe it.

Mr. Fisher has brought your book-case, and the drawers for my room. They are very elegant, and will be a great convenience to me. He wishes you to have the case painted a mahogany colour, and to do it while you are absent. I told him, I would give you his opinion in my first letter.

My grandmamma was so good to call yesterday, and invite me to dinner on Monday. She was pretty well, and desired her love. I saw Mrs. Grover yesterday, who sends you her *tender regard*. The accounts of the widow have not yet been favourable. Her daughter and sister went to Tunbridge on Tuesday.

I hope the conclusion of your tour will be agreeable. My constant prayers for health and pleasure attend you.—I am happy you

are comfortably lodged. Mr. and Mrs. Cotes will, I flatter myself, make several parties with you, which may give you pleasure. I hope for the continuation of your goodness in writing to me.

Je vous aime, et vous embrasse de tout mon cœur, mon cher papa.

LETTER XXXIII.

London,

Monday Evening, Aug. 1, 1773.

I AM just returned from spending the evening with my grandmamma. It has made me happy to find a letter from you ; and I beg you to believe I am most sincerely grateful for your kindness in writing. I had the pleasure of your former letter. I directed mine to the George, at Arundel ; according to the address you favoured me with. I am extremely glad to acquaint you of my aunt

being out of danger. Mrs. Mead saw her yesterday, and found her pretty well. She is obliged to wear a hat and bandages. Mr. Grindall has forbid her using exercise : he is afraid that the swelling on her forehead must be lanced. I intend to go to St. John's-square very soon ; and would have gone already, but my uncle told me she must not see any body for some days. Yesterday was the first time of Mrs. Mead's going.

I have just sent the parcel to the Bright-helmstone coach, as you desired. I am sorry I cannot inform you where it goes to at Brighthelmstone ; but I hope to know at the inn it goes from ; where I have ordered inquiry to be made.—I am highly sensible of your goodness in thinking of my going to East-bourn. I am always most happy in your company ; but I must beg leave to recall to your mind my sentiments on this subject, that your indulgence may not prevent a farther excursion which might be agreeable to you—or may be an inconvenience, where I so ardently wish happiness in

all the detail of life. To contribute to it as far as is in the power of filial duty, will ever be my first pleasure.

I have received a most tender letter from madame De Chantereine. She was much pleased with Mr. Smith*. I have sent you a song, which she was so good as to in-close. It is very much liked at Paris, and pleased me extremely: *j' espere qu'elle vous amusera.*

I go to South Barrow on Wednesday, and return on Saturday. I shall order my letters to be sent there.

With the warmest wishes for the remainder of your tour being agreeable,

I am your ever affectionate

and dutiful daughter,

MARY WILKES.

The coach goes to the Old Ship.

* Mr. Wilkes's son.

LETTER XXXIV.

*Brighthelmstone,**Tuesday Morn. Aug. 3, 7 o'Clock.*

I DINED on Sunday with our agreeable friends Mr: and Mrs. Cotes, at Little Hampton; and in the afternoon, I got on horseback, and rode to Broadwater, a mile from Worthing and nine from Little Hampton, in order to see the great fishery there. I was, however, disappointed; for the wind being so strong, no boat would venture out. From thence, I went to New Shoreham, and crossed the country to this place.

I have now only time to mention, the best way to send things here is by Boulton's coach; which comes here every day from the Golden-cross, Charing-cross. My present intention is to remain here till Sunday; as I have very pleasant lodgings on the Cliff, at a taylor's. When my daughter writes to

me, please to direct to "Mr. Gorrings, on the Cliff."

There is very little company here, and that sunk so low as London aldermen; Kennet, Oliver, &c. In one part of the town you see "London porter sold here:" the next door might be, "London aldermen seen here." Among our acquaintance here are lord Peterborough, captain Rice, captain Wade, and Lupino. I assisted last night at a wretched ball.

I wish you to send me a packet, next Friday, by Boulton's coach; and to write at the same time by the post.

I am impatient to hear of your health; and wish you much pleasure in your little tour to South Barrow.

Adieu!

LETTER XXXV.

*Brighthelmstone,
August 7, Saturday.*

I SHALL leave this place to-morrow, and proceed to Eastbourn; from whence you shall have a letter by the first post. I am much pleased with my little apartments; and old Ocean breaks almost at my feet: but, without your company, I have not the true relish of any of these enjoyments. I pay a guinea for the week; and dine either at the tavern, or here alone. Next Thursday the Lewes races begin: I shall, therefore, avoid all the trouble which infest a neighbourhood on such an occasion.

I wish nothing might be done to the book-case Fisher made, till my return. I am exceedingly pleased that you like the drawers he has made: he is really a good workman, and moderate in his prices.

The favourable report of my sister Heaton's health rejoices me greatly. I was under apprehensions on her account.

I hope you had much pleasure in your little excursion.—The air of South Barrow, as well as the company, I think good.

The *tender regard* of Mrs. Grover is very well *durant la canicule* ; but, I hope, before Michaelmas, her expression in my favour will be one syllable, *tender love*. I fear much for the charming widow's health.

In the packet was a letter from Garrick, dated July 27 ; to invite you and me to Hampton and venison, with Mr. Fitzmaurice, for the Thursday following.

I received both your parcels, your letter to Arundel, and from South Barrow, dated August 5. I thank my dear girl for her attention and care.

Good night !

LETTER XXXVI.

*Eastbourn,**Monday, August 9.*

I LEFT Brighthelmstone yesterday morning at six, and arrived here about noon. I have been ever since endeavouring to get you good lodgings, but unsuccessfully : the very few towards the sea being occupied ; and those here, neither pleasant nor convenient. My tour, therefore, is greatly abridged, and I shall finish it this week ; but what day I shall return to Prince's-court, is quite uncertain. I shall afterwards have the pleasure of little excursions with you, as our larger plan is dropped.

I sent you yesterday, by the Lewes stage, three dozen of wheatears. They are earlier here than at Brighthelmstone. The downs in this neighbourhood are very beautiful, and the villages are happily embosomed with

trees ; but I greatly prefer Brighthelmstone. The sea there appears in more majesty and dignity ; and that is the noble object which distinguishes this part of our island.

I found here Mr. Harmood and Mr. Smith Mortimer ; with their wives, sisters, aunts, cousins, &c. ; *qui m'ont comblé de politesse*. However, nothing of this kind will detain me here above a day or two longer.

By studying the map, I find that Tunbridge is almost my direct road to London. I have some idea of returning that way, and paying my compliments to the handsome widow ; but I cannot yet fix my route. I shall write by the next post, and mention all particulars.

Adieu !

LETTER XXXVII:

*Eastbourn,**Wednesday, August 11, 1773.*

MY agreeable friends here have found me so pleasant an apartment, that I mean to continue at this place till next Tuesday; and shall then return to town by Tunbridge I believe, although I am not yet certain. I ride or walk every day three or four hours; and am laying in a stock of health for the winter.

The situation of the farm-house in which I lodge, is admirable. There is a full view of the sea, of the Downs, and several little villages; with some plantations happily interspersed, which are much wanted at Brighthelmstone.

I hope the wheatears proved delicate. They have been very scarce this season.—

I beg you to write to me by the post at Eastbourn; by the Lewes bag, on Saturday night: but keep all letters and newspapers, &c. till my return.

Heaven preserve my sweet girl; and give her health, peace, and every other blessing!

Adieu!

LETTER XXXVIII.

London, August 14, 1773.

I HAVE just now the pleasure of your letter of Wednesday. I waited with impatience to hear from you, to be informed of your health and amusement; and, from the pleasure with which I always pay you my duty, I am happy at your liking Eastbourn so well. The situation where you are, by

the description you have favoured me with, must be delightful.—I flatter myself the air and exercise will have the good effect you hope for. It will give me the greatest pleasure to see it.

I am exceedingly obliged to you for the wheatears : they were very delicate. I received them on Monday evening, just after my return from South Barrow ; and had luckily the opportunity of sending some to the family there. They desired their best respects.—I am very glad you have met with agreeable friends. If you go to Tunbridge, I beg the favour of you to say the most tender things for me to the amiable widow.

There are small boxes made there, which contain places for every thing necessary for writing, except paper ; with glasses that are very convenient. They cost but a few shillings ; which encourages me to take the liberty of desiring you to be so good as to bring me one, if you have the opportunity. The weather here is extremely sultry, and

has been so several days. There was a violent storm from ten o'clock last night till between six and seven this morning.

I beg you to accept my most grateful thanks for your kind wishes : the same are always ardently made for you, by the heart of

your affectionate and

dutiful daughter,

MARY WILKES.

LETTER XXXIX.

London,

August 27.

I AM very happy in your two letters : the first I received on Thursday ; the second, to-day. I am rather surprised that the post does not come sooner from Lewes ; and no impatience could be greater than mine for its

arrival. I received yesterday three dozen of wheatears, for which I return the kind donor many thanks. I sent one dozen to Mr. Wilson; and another to Mr. Churchill. The former has made the kindest inquiries; and I have just wrote to inform him of the most pleasing account that has reached me to-day. I saw Mr. Churchill this morning.

I have great satisfaction to find you to take so much care of yourself. I think it prudent not to be on horseback. Your caution contributes greatly to make me flatter myself, that the accounts I shall have of *general* Wilkes will give me increasing happiness; and hope the most firm re-establishment of his health will enable him to go through his approaching business with his usual activity, joined to his wonderful talents.

I went to Clapham on Thursday; from whence I did not return till last night, as my mother goes to Epsom on Monday. She inquired how you did.—Mrs. Taylor, whom we went to see yesterday morning, did the same; and wished you health and happi-

ness.—Mr. Smith called here, of his own accord, a few days ago ; to inquire after your health, and desire his duty. I sent for him to dine here, but he was engaged to go to Acton. He comes on Tuesday.—I hope you received the parcel by the machine. I will certainly send the next to go on Tuesday.—It gives me great concern you are not near the sea ; but I hope the distance is not great enough to be inconvenient for bathing. I long to hear of your being the better for it. Mrs. Mead desires her love ; and Mr. Churchill and Mr. Pugh their respects.

I beg the favour of your writing often ; and am always happy in giving you assurances of my ever being, with sincere gratitude,

your affectionate and

dutiful daughter,

MARY WILKES.

Henri begs you to receive her duty, and is happy at the joyful news.

LETTER XL.

*London,
August 29.*

IT would be against my duty not to write when I send a packet; and I have always the highest pleasure in fulfilling it, where every motive prompts the performance. The kind acceptance it has hitherto had the happiness of meeting with, makes me flatter myself I shall continue to have that affection and indulgence it will ever be my duty to deserve. I hope you have now better weather, and have bathed with the best success.— From the constant fluctuation at places on the coast, I imagine it is likely you may have now got lodgings near the sea. I should be extremely glad to find my conjecture verified.

Lord Mountmorris has just called here, to desire your direction. I saw him, and

gave it in writing. He inquired much how you did. His lordship said he was going to Brighthelmstone; and I fancy you will see him there, or at Eastbourn.—Mr. Smith has desired to be excused dining here to-morrow, as he can pass the day at Acton. I fixed Wednesday with him instead; and will certainly have him come again very soon. He presents his duty, and is very well.

Tuesday Morning.

The kind favour of your letter, last Saturday, prevented my sending the packet last night, as he* changed his mind. I have much concern from the continuance of the bad weather at Eastbourn, and the slight return of your fever. This morning I sent for Mr. Churchill; as the knowing his opinion, and sending it you, is a great relief to me. He don't think a little relapse of consequence: but if it should prove intermitting,

* Young Smith.

he desires you to take the bark at the intervals; and says you must not bathe in that case. I hope very soon to have another letter, and to find it more satisfactory. I will do with pleasure what you wish respecting Mr. Smith: my letters have shewn you my intentions. Mrs. Mead is pretty well.

We have had cold weather these three days; with high wind, and frequent very hard showers. You are persuaded, I hope, how happy the most favourable account of your health would make me.

I am, ever, your affectionate and

dutiful daughter,

MARY WILKES.

LETTER XLI.

London, August 30.

I HAVE hesitated a little whether I should send you a packet by to-morrow's machine, as you said nothing about it in your last letter; but I think it may be agreeable, as otherwise you would be near a week without receiving one. Your kind punctuality makes me, I must confess, a little uneasy at not having the pleasure of hearing from you to-day. I flatter myself that to-morrow my anxiety will be displaced by the satisfaction of having an account of your health, agreeable to the wishes my heart so ardently forms.

Mr. Smith dined here on Wednesday. I gave him what you wished: he desired his duty and thanks; and is very well. He

comes to-morrow.—My uncle Heaton partook of our little dinner on Wednesday. He desired his love; and to acquaint you he has just entered into a partnership, which makes him very happy. It is in the coal trade; with Mr. Hayley's advice, who drew up the articles.

Dr. Wilson set out for Suffolk on Wednesday morning, at five o'clock. He left his best respects for you. I constantly sent him accounts of your health; and wrote to him on Tuesday, on his leaving town.—I dined with my grandmamma yesterday. She desired her love; and that if you found great benefit by Eastbourn, you would stay till your health was quite restored. Happy as your return would make me, I must beg leave to add the same wish; from the most pleasing prospect of present success, and future advantage, your being there affords: and I hope you now have the agreeable and necessary circumstance of fine weather.

I have great satisfaction from your kind letter of Monday. I communicated it to

Mr. Churchill, who entirely approves of what you have taken. I hope the advice you have had is very good, and that the situation of your new apartment will prove of great advantage.

I am charged with Mr. Churchill's and Mr. Pugh's respects.

MR. WILKES ELECTED SHERIFF OF LONDON AND MIDDLESEX, AND LORD-MAYOR OF LONDON.

ON the 24th of June, 1771, the time of the annual election of sheriffs, he was elected sheriff for London and Middlesex, with his friend alderman Bull. Being suspected of partiality to the French, he ordered that no French wine should be given at his entertainments. It was the best refutation of that illiberal suspicion ; for he was, in plain truth, a true Englishman. In his shrievalty he opened the galleries at the Old Bailey for the free admission of the public.

At Michaelmas, 1774, he was elected lord-mayor, with the greatest applause. His daughter was lady-mayoress ; a situation which she filled with great honour to herself, and infinite satisfaction to all the visitors at the mansion-house. No lady-mayoress was ever more esteemed. A more polite

and brilliant mayoralty the city had not seen since the days of Beckford.

The following letter from Dr. Wilson, senior prebend of Westminster, cannot be omitted here; nor the letter from baron D'Holbach, which succeeds it.

" Gay-street, Bath, Nov. 4, 1775.

" MY DEAR LORD-MAYOR,

*" WE have been for a week past in perpetual laughter about the late dreadful plot; which, if it had not been so wonderfully found out in the very nick of time, might have afforded a new set of addresses of *lives and fortunes*. However, to carry on the farce, it would be proper to have a form of prayer and thanksgiving; which the arch-*

bishops and bishops may be as well employed in, in my humble opinion, as voting for the blood and slaughter of their fellow-subjects, *one* only excepted—and I am always ready to receive a repenting sinner, from whatever motive it proceeds.

“I am now to take leave of you as lord-mayor; and have not words to express, as a liveryman, my grateful acknowledgments for the substantial favours we have received from you during your whole magistracy. As a lover of the poor and distressed, I must thank you for the tender care you have taken of them, in reducing the price of bread and provisions, &c. Next Thursday you will receive the honest applauses of thousands.

In your senatorial capacity, our dear friend Mrs. Macaulay, who is an excellent judge of composition, pronounces your first speech a manly, plain, intrepid exertion of true English spirit; and compares it with some of her favourite speeches in 1639, &c. After this I need not add, that I admire

and applaud you for that and every other part you have taken in the cause of liberty and your country. May the Almighty prosper you in all your glorious endeavours to rescue the king out of the hands of his present advisers, who have brought this country to the brink of destruction ! and their lives are but a poor atonement for the blood which has been wantonly and cruelly shed.

“ You will receive, with the lady-mayorress, our united thanks for the polite and friendly reception we met with at the mansion-house ; and I shall be as well pleased to converse with you in your retirement in Prince’s-court.

“ When the present bustle is over, bring your daughter in your hand to this place ; where you will meet with Mr. Clutterbuck, Mr. Sharpe, and a few other choice friends — (your enemies are all silent) : amongst these, give Mrs. Macaulay and myself leave to say, that you have not many

sincerer; and pretty miss returns you the kiss you sent her by me.

“ I am, my dear friend,

yours and your daughter’s

most affectionately,

T. WILSON.

“ P. S. I hope our excellent friend, Mr. Bull, is recovering; and that he will not venture too soon to St. Stephen’s.”

“ *Paris, April 27, 1775.*”

“ MY LORD,

“ I RECEIVED with the utmost gratitude your lordship’s friendly letter of the 28th of March. I should have done myself the honour of answering sooner to your kind propositions, if I had not been prevented by some gouty infirmities that have assailed me

in the beginning of this spring. I esteem myself very happy to find that the hurry of business, and your exaltation to the rank of chief-magistrate, could not make you forget your friendship to me ; though my present circumstances do not permit me to make use of your friendly invitation, be persuaded, my very dear lord, that madame D'Holbach and myself shall for ever keep these signs of your kindness, in very grateful remembrance. We both desire our best compliments to your very amiable lady-mayorress ; who acted so well her part lately in the Egyptian-hall, to the satisfaction of that prodigious crowd you have been entertaining there. All members of our society that have had the happiness of being acquainted with you, desire to be kindly remembered ; and a continuation of your valuable friendship shall for ever be the utmost ambition,

my lord,

of your most sincerely devoted

D'HOLBACH,"

MR. WILKES, in his official capacity as lord-mayor, presented to the king, on the 5th of April, 1775, a spirited remonstrance and petition on the affairs of America ; and though these addresses were not from the corporation, but from the livery in common-hall, yet his majesty received it on the throne, and returned an answer. But this was the last petition from the *common-hall* that his majesty has chosen to receive in that manner.

At the close of Mr. Wilkes's mayoralty, the thanks of the city were given to him in the following terms :

‘ This court doth return thanks to the
‘ right honourable John Wilkes, late lord-
‘ mayor of this city, for his indefatigable at-
‘ tention to the several duties of that import-
‘ ant office ; for the particular regard and po-
‘ liteness which he has been pleased at all
‘ times to shew the members of this court ;
‘ for his wise, upright, and impartial adminis-
‘ tration of justice ; for his diligence, on all
‘ occasions, to promote the welfare and true

‘ interest of this city ; and for his unblemish-
‘ ed conduct, and exemplary behaviour, du-
‘ ring the whole course of his mayoralty.”

MR. WILKES A FIFTH TIME ELECTED
KNIGHT OF THE SHIRE FOR MIDDLE-
SEX.

AT the end of September, 1774, the parliament was suddenly dissolved. The British cabinet had resolved to commence a war with America, and they thought it good policy to have the concurrence of a new legislature in that measure.

The election for Middlesex was fixed for the 28th of October ; when Mr. Wilkes was unanimously re-chosen : and on the 2d of December he took his seat in the house of commons.

Two editions of his speeches in parliament having been already printed (the first

in duodecimo, the last in octavo) corrected by himself, it is not necessary at present to take any other notice of them here; except one speech in the house, which was made after both the editions were published, and consequently is not in either of them. It is on the subject of the impeachment of governor Hastings. Mr. Wilkes prided himself not a little upon it; and it is undoubtedly a very masterly exculpation. The following is an extract from his last corrected copy.

“ MR. SPEAKER,

“ As an Englishman, I avow my gratitude to Mr. Hastings; for I think him a distinguished benefactor of this nation. During the late inglorious war, we fully triumphed no where but in the East, under his happy auspices. *There* the perfidy of the French, and the treachery of the Dutch, were exemplarily chastised. He preserved entire all our Asiatic provinces, and left unimpaired the extensive empire which he governed.

His conquests over our enemies comprehended every French and Dutch settlement; except Cuddalore, which was saved only by the peace. It is without a precedent, that conquests so important were made at no expence to the mother country. Lord Clive had frequent and large remittances from England, to the amount of some hundred thousand pounds; and without these, he could not have carried on the wars in which he was engaged. No complaint has been heard of the danger of our being impoverished, or exhausted, by Mr. Hastings's Indian wars. The wonderful resources of his mind made the war support itself. The expences of it were borne by our enemies: by the traitors and rebels in our own provinces; or by ambitious neighbours, who had leagued together for our destruction,—I might say, for our extirpation.

“ Sir, The overt acts of sedition and rebellion in Cheyt Sing and the begums, are recorded at large in the volumes on our table. Their rooted hatred to the English

is fully established. I believe that I shall not be contradicted when I mention, that all property of every kind,—jaghires, grants, revenues,—and life itself, are forfeited to the state by delinquencies of this atrocious nature. The largeness, therefore, or smallness, of a fine in such a case, must be out of the question: nor can there be any pretence to complain of grievous penalties, or exorbitant exactions, when the whole is confiscated. Whatever is left to the culpable party; must proceed from mercy and compassion; all possessions and treasures of every sort being forfeited. Every wise government, with equal policy and justice, will apply to the preservation of the state what was destined for its ruin and annihilation. On these great principles of sound legislation Mr. Hastings appears to have acted. He well knew the treachery and deep dissimulation of the begums. I have heard indeed, sir, of one British officer's life being saved by them—a captain Gordon; but no mention is made of the many officers and soldiers sacrificed in

the tumults and rebellion which they excited. I do not exactly know on what account the captain was spared. Much stress is laid on the circumstance; but the instance proves merely, that the begums had usurped the government of a country in which they were only subjects. A solitary act of mercy is pleaded with an ill grace, and deserves little weight, against very many instances of cruelty. The rebels, it is plain, paid obedience to the begums; whose usurped power, at that time, was supreme.

“Much ridicule has been thrown on the number of affidavits taken in India on occasion of the late insurrections, revolts, and rebellions. The case is not clearly understood, nor the intention explained. The critical and dangerous situation of our government, called for immediate and vigorous exertions. Our provinces and dominions were secured by instant spirit and courage, without which all must have been lost. Every person on the spot was convinced of the rebellious practices of many natives of high rank and

power, and of the urgency of our situation. Prudence afterwards dictated the measure of giving all the minutiae of legal proof to those concerned in the affairs of the East India company at home,—at the distance of four thousand leagues from the scene of action, and to whom many particulars of moment and magnitude were unknown. It became almost necessary, for the satisfaction of some men of strict form and minute detail; who canvass enlarged plans of government, and the comprehensive system of empires, in the same rigid mode as causes of petty larceny. They arraign the saviour of an empire on the narrow principles, and with the little chicanery, of the Old Bailey. Happily for this country, the decisive moment of action was not lost by an idle attention to trifling forms.

“ Sir, When the English under our immortal Henry V. landed in France, in the year of the battle of Agincourt there was a president of the parliament of Paris (who has

been consigned to eternal ridicule), a monsieur Louvet,

——— grand personage ;

Au maintien grave, et qu'on eût pris pour sage.

He remonstrated, in all the forms, against the French troops marching, till there should be an *arrêt de parlement* against the English monarch and his army, signed by the *greffier en chef*, in the name of all the *chambres**:

—Mr: Hastings appears to understand business rather better than monsieur Louvet: and to have despised mere forms, and cold caution, when the moment of important action arrived ; which he carefully watched.

The success which followed, was adequate to the wisdom and courage of all the measures of a great statesman: The family of monsieur Louvet, I suspect, emigrated to England ; and made a *cross-breed* with those who, strictly observing all forms of votes, resolutions, and acts of parliament, lost thirteen provinces in America, with Minorca, yet now dare to persecute the saviour of India.

* Chambers of parliament.

“Sir, I am ready to admit that Mr. Hastings has sometimes gone beyond the strict letter of the powers with which he was entrusted : but I add a proviso—that he was always warranted by the emergency of the occasion, and the general instructions under which he acted ; and that in no instance has he been actuated by corrupt or selfish motives. He never lost sight of the *general instructions* from his constituents, of the 29th of March, 1774, “that in all your deliberations and resolutions you make the safety and prosperity of Bengal your principal object, and fix your attention on the security of the possessions and revenues of the Company.” To these important objects his strong and manly genius has sometimes sacrificed the dead letter, with all the tedious embarrassing forms of the lower courts of law ; perhaps even exceeded the *usual* powers of a governor-general.

“Let us advert, sir, to what passed in our own country, in 1766. The capital was threatened with famine : for the stock of

corn in hand was inconsiderable; and the harvest had failed with us, as well as in most parts of Europe. The exportation began to increase beyond the example of all former years; and commissions from abroad for the purchase of wheat, had been received to an unusual amount. The necessities of the poor were become urgent and alarming. In this emergency, government acted wisely, and according to the spirit of the constitution, although directly against law. An embargo was laid on all ships in the ports of Great Britain, laden with wheat, or wheat-flour. The people were fed, and the country rescued from the dreadful calamity of famine; which in many parts had been severely experienced. The ministers stood forth in a manly way, at their own risk; and trusted to their country for indemnity. They obtained it, to the fullest extent, from a grateful senate, as soon as parliament met. The law was plain, and positive: but the breach of it became meritorious, from the necessity of

the case—for the salvation of the state. In such arduous circumstances has the late governor-general been, and to similar exertions do we owe the preservation of our Indian empire.

“Much has been said, sir, about the accepting of *presents* by Mr. Hastings, in direct violation of the act of parliament. The fact is admitted : but let us examine the law. By the act “for establishing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs of the East India company, as well in India as in Europe, &c.” (the 13th of the king, ch. 63, sect. 23), which passed in 1773, it is enacted, that “no governor-general shall, directly or indirectly, by himself, or by any other person or persons for his use, or on his behalf, accept, receive, or take, of or from any person or persons, in any manner or on any account whatsoever, any present, gift, donation, gratuity, or reward, &c.” This, sir, is also the act by which Mr. Hastings was first appointed governor-general of Bengal.

Now, sir, I ask, where is the proof that Mr. Hastings has violated this law in a single instance? Has he taken *for his use*, or *on his behalf*, any present, gift, donation, gratuity, or reward? Let the evidence be produced. It is true that various presents were, at different times, received by him; and in particular 100,000*l.* from the nabob of Oude: but it is equally true that they were *always* carried to the account of the East India company, and actually formed a regular head of revenue after the act took place. A second act, (24th of the king, ch. 25, sect. 45,) which declared “that the receiving presents for the use of the East India company shall be deemed, and taken to be, extortion,” did not take place till the first day of January, 1785; the month before Mr. Hastings embarked for Europe. The last mentioned sum of 100,000*l.* was specifically entered as a *present*. These gifts and presents were afterwards issued for the pay of the army: and without these and other extraordinary aids, the army might

have disbanded, perhaps massacred their employers; the Indian empire would certainly have mouldered away. The offering of presents is thought, in the East, a necessary preliminary in all negociations between a higher power, and an inferior or dependant. If the present is not accepted, the suit is understood to be rejected."

From a large volume in quarto, consisting of letters and papers concerning Mr. Hastings, written and printed under his own direction, for the use of his friends, but which was never published, it will not be improper to copy the two following letters, being the best commentary on the latter part of Mr. Wilkes's speech.

From the East India Company to Warren Hastings.

"Harley-street, Sept. 17, 1795.

"SIR,

"THE late resolutions of the general court in your favour, with respect to the charges

incurred by you in consequence of the impeachment; and the annuity, as a reward for your services to the East India Company; are sufficient proofs of the high estimation in which you stand with the proprietors at large.

“ These resolutions have not been carried into immediate effect, because doubts have arisen as to the legality of the measure under the provisions of the act of parliament as to the application of the profits of the company after certain defined payments are made: and, with regard to the annuity, the approbation and confirmation thereof being expressly, under the provisions of the act, with the commissioners for the affairs of India.

“ Whilst these questions have been agitated, and remain undecided, the public, and every individual proprietor, have, in the exercise of their judgment upon the propriety of the measures (to which they most undoubtedly have a right), canvassed with precision your character and conduct while ex-

ercising the high office of governor-general of all their affairs in India, and particularly the fortune you acquired in their service. Upon the two first points, I trust, there is no doubt ; but as to the latter, a variety of opinions are entertained by men of the first character and honour in the country. From some hasty, and perhaps unnecessary, declarations made some time ago, and from appearances since, gentlemen of this description have entertained doubts of the truth of the assertions ; and though a printed paper has been in circulation, as to the state of your fortune, yet your immediate constituents the (East India company) and the public, whose interests I consider as inseparable, remain without any declaration or avowal from you personally, as to the true state of your affairs.

“ It is suggested, that a distinction is attempted to be made between your fortune and Mrs. Hastings’s. This is a subterfuge unworthy of your honour and character ; and I am sure it is unnecessary for me to

point out to you how impossible it is to make this distinction with any degree of justice.

“I have, sir, no pretensions, in my individual capacity, to inquire into the state of your private affairs; I should think myself impertinent so to do: but, as chairman of the India company, anxious for the honour and character of their servants of every description, especially those who have held such high and confidential offices, I have taken upon myself to desire of you to state to me in writing, upon your honour, a full, plain, and unequivocal account of your fortune; for the purpose of availing myself of it, if I see a fit and proper occasion, for removing those doubts, which, I must repeat, do at present exist in the minds of persons of distinguished honour and character.

“If, sir, you choose to give me an explicit answer, it may be of use: if not, you will consider my letter as coming from a gentleman holding (however unworthily) a very

honourable and respectable situation ; and not the impertinent curiosity of an individual.

“ My situation must be my apology ; and my object can only be to rescue, or rather preserve pure, your character, from the suggestions before stated.

“ I have the honour to be, sir,

your very obedient servant,

STEPHEN LUSHINGTON.”

“ *To Warren Hastings, esq.*”

Mr. Hastings's Answer.

“ *Daylesford-house,*

“ *September 22, 1795.*

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter : in which, after informing me of the legal difficulties which have hitherto occurred, to prevent the court of directors from

carrying into effect the late resolutions of the general court, you are pleased in substance to add, that other objections were likely to arise from a variety of opinions entertained by men of the first character and honour in this country, respecting the fortune which I acquired in the company's service, on comparing the declarations formerly made of its amount (whether prudently made or not) with appearances since; and to desire of me to state to you in writing, 'upon my honour, a full, plain, and unequivocal account, of my fortune, for the purpose of availing yourself of it, if you should see a fit and proper occasion, for removing those doubts which, you repeat, do at present exist in the minds of persons of distinguished honour and character.'

"Whatever sense of public duty may have dictated this reference, or wish to obtain for the proprietors the fullest information to assist their deliberations upon a matter likely to be soon again brought before them, still I

cannot but feel myself impressed with the warmest sentiments of gratitude for the share which I have in the immediate object of it : which is, by stating to me the reports which have prevailed, to the injury of both my character and pretensions ; to afford me the means of repelling them ; and of justifying the past approbation and beneficence of my generous and ever respected employers. I now with pleasure acknowledge the obligation, and return you my sincere and most grateful thanks for it.

“ To the demand which you have made, and expressed in terms of the most impressing solemnity, I shall reply, as I ought, with the pledge of my honour, which it requires for the verification of it ; and with as sacred and as awful a regard to truth, as if I was still in the presence of that tribunal before which I have already made a similar declaration upon the same subject, and called upon the Almighty to attest it.

“ I will first endeavour to lay before you, in as few words as possible, that full, plain,

and unequivocal account of my fortune as it stands at the present moment, which you are pleased to require from me.

“ I owe to my solicitors, and to various individuals 97,000*l*.

“ To answer this sum, I possess the estate of Daylesford, in Worcestershire; which cost me, including the original purchase and what I have expended upon the house, gardens, and lands, about 60,000*l*. The estate is 650 acres, and may be valued at 500*l*. clear yearly rent. I have a diamond, which I purchased for a remittance twenty-one years ago; it is still unsold, and its estimated value is 3000*l*. I paid for it 33,000 sicca rupees. I have one share in the Ber- rington and another in the Phoenix India- men, valued at (the first cost) 2,232*l*. I have some furniture, horses, and other farming stock, which it is impossible to appreciate: I believe I over-rate them at 2,000*l*. And I have recoverable debts, owing to me in England, amounting to about 3,000*l*. I do most solemnly affirm to you, sir, upon my

honour, that I have no other property in any part of the world.

“ I must avow, notwithstanding the severity with which you seem to reprobate the distinction, that in estimating my own fortune, I never did mean to include that which is exclusively the property of Mrs. Hastings. It is true, the principal sum from which it has accrued, was once my own. I bestowed it upon her as a marriage settlement in 1777; not as an act of liberality, but as a compliance in course with the usage, which I believe to be universal, of the community of which I was a member. The sum was one lack of sicca rupees, and was paid by a bill upon my attorney in England; the proceeds of which were to be vested in the hands of trustees, for her use. When it was ultimately paid, the sum, with the interest, amounted to 22,234*l.* This, by the sale of jewels, grew to 40,000*l.*; from which, 10,000*l.* was deducted for the purchase of a house and furniture in Park-lane, lately made over as a security for that sum assign-

ed for the marriage settlement of Mrs. Imhoff, the wife of her son. I declare upon my honour, and even by all that is more sacred, if any thing can be more sacred, that I have never added to her fortune since the day of my marriage. That I never, either in India or in England, directly or indirectly, made over one rupee, or one shilling of my property, to Mrs. Hastings, or to any person or persons in trust for her : nor, to my knowledge or belief, does she possess any property beyond the sum which I have specified."

[The remainder of the letter relates to the particulars of the preceding totals, and to Mr. Hastings's pecuniary distresses pending his trial.]

" I have the honour to be,
with the greatest respect, sir,
your much obliged and
most obedient humble servant,

WARREN HASTINGS."

" *To Sir Stephen Lushington, Bart. Chairman of the Court of Directors.*"

MR. WILKES ELECTED CHAMBERLAIN OF
THE CITY OF LONDON.

IN the month of April, 1777, sir Stephen Theodore Janssen, who was chamberlain of the city of London, died ; upon which event Mr. Wilkes became a candidate for the office, but was not successful.

Alderman Hopkins was chosen. That gentleman, however, dying in November, 1779, Mr. Wilkes was immediately elected his successor ; and sworn into office on the second of December, 1779. The livery could not have selected in the city of London a more proper person for this situation. He had always been a very excellent magistrate, not only in London, but in Buckinghamshire also. His experience and talents were well suited to the station ; and he did more than any of his predecessors had done—he added a new interest to the office.

When he presented the freedom of the city of London to great men, in honorary reward for brilliant and important services, he always enriched the compliment with a very elegant encomium on the merits and high estimation of the person whom he congratulated. He valued himself much on the excellence of these addresses; and they are worthy of preservation. The FIRST was to Mr. Pitt (the present minister), on the 28th of February, 1784. It is as follows:

“ SIR,

“ I GIVE you joy: and I congratulate the city of London on the important acquisition which it has this day made. I reckon it, sir, among the most fortunate events of my life, that I have the honour of being directed by the unanimous resolution of the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council, to enroll your name in the archives of this metropolis, among those princes and heroes who have been the benefactors of our country

and the friends of mankind ; with the glorious deliverer of this nation ; with the hero of Culloden ; with the illustrious statesman from whom you derive your descent. The city of London, sir, with pride and exultation, now behold revived in the son those solid virtues, shining talents, and powerful eloquence, which they long admired in the father : but above all, that generous love of our country and its divine constitution, superior to the groveling sordid views of private self-interest, or personal ambition. You have, sir, thus early in your ministerial career commanded the esteem and admiration of this city and nation, by a noble act of disinterestedness in favour of the public : for which, I believe, you scarcely could find a precedent ; nor, I fear, will you be imitated by any future minister.

“ We look up, sir, to that superior ability and purity of public virtue, which distinguish you, for the reformation of many and great abuses ; as well as for the steady protection of our chartered rights, our property, and

our freedom. The administration of your noble father gave us security at home, carried the glory of this nation to the utmost height abroad, and extended the bounds of the empire to countries where the Roman eagle never flew. A late administration undertook an unjust and wicked war; which dismembered the empire, by depriving us of our most valuable colonies, and has brought us almost to the verge of bankruptcy. To restore this kingdom to a degree of prosperity and greatness, demands the utmost exertions of virtue and ability; with every support, both of the crown and people at large. I hope you will meet with both; and I know how high you stand in the confidence of the public. Much is to be done; but you have youth, capacity, and firmness. It is the characteristic of a true patriot, never to despair; and we have a well-grounded hope of your making us again a great, powerful, happy, and united people, by a steady, uniform, wise, and disinterested conduct. Your noble father, sir, annihilated

party ; and I hope you will, in the end, beat down and conquer the hydra of faction, which now rears its hundred heads against you. I remember his saying, ‘ that for the good of the people he dared to look the proudest connections of this country in the face.’ I trust that the same spirit animates his son ; and as he has the same support of the crown and the people, I am firmly persuaded that the same success will follow.”

Mr. Pitt’s Answer :

“ SIR,

“ I BEG to return you my best thanks for your very obliging expressions. Nothing can be more encouraging to me in the discharge of my public duty, than the countenance of those, whom, from this day, I may have the honour of calling my fellow-citizens.”

The SECOND was to the marquis Cornwallis, on the 5th of April, 1794.

“ MY LORD,

“ I GIVE you joy : and am happy in having the honour, as chamberlain, of conveying to your lordship the unanimous thanks of the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council, of the city of London, for those great and eminent services which the nation at large, no less than the capital, dwell upon with gratitude and exultation.

“ The British arms, under the wise and spirited conduct of a brave commander, have raised the glory of the English name to the highest pitch in the East. The most brilliant and splendid victories have followed your lordship’s ability in council, the excellence of all your military measures, your distinguished intrepidity in the most dangerous scenes of action. They have not only given perfect security to our former territories, but have extended the bounds of the empire, accompanied with an acquisition of more than 400,000*l.* a-year ; an object of

national importance. Yet, my lord, permit me to add, that though I am dazzled with your victories; with the pride and pomp of conquest; the humbling of the capital of Mysore; and the glorious 6th of February, 1792,) a proud day for England, and an æra most distinguished in the annals of the eastern empire) there are still nobler and higher triumphs that crowd upon us—the triumphs of your humanity. Your lordship's care and solicitude for the well-being of the numerous troops under your command; the mild exercise of an authority beyond controul, which constantly afforded an adequate protection to merit, and services of every kind, in the friendly natives, during the whole course of the war; gave you an empire founded on esteem and affection, beyond the power of the sword. Such considerations overcame, in the eastern monarch, the strong ties of nature; and the father, with a calm resignation, consented that the two young princes, the hopes of his

empire, should pass under the eye and protection of an heroic and humane conqueror.

“ My lord, our great Milton says, ‘ Peace has her victories no less renowned than war.’ They have been earned in the civil administration of your lordship. The native inhabitants of India were, at your lordship’s accession to power, the happiest and best-protected subjects in India ; and they continued to enjoy that protection, in its fullest extent, under your happy auspices. The plan of a late governor-general, the saviour of India, (Mr. Hastings,) was examined with great care and attention, and adhered to with liberality. A better could not have been adopted. With wonderful ability he struggled through a mass of difficulties of a different kind, brought on in a most critical and perplexed situation of Indian affairs. He rose superior to the combined efforts of our enemies ; and preserved to us our empire of the East, to be secured on the most permanent basis, and enlarged by lord Cornwallis.”

The THIRD was to lieutenant-general sir William Medows, K. B. on the 17th of May, 1794.

“ GENERAL SIR WILLIAM MEDOWS,

“ I GIVE you joy : and I have the satisfaction of returning you thanks in the name of the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons, of the city of London, in common-council assembled. They have unanimously voted you the freedom of the capital : and desire to express their high esteem for the second in command under the marquis Cornwallis ; and gratitude for the glorious and important advantages gained by his majesty's forces in the East Indies, aided by your gallant conduct.

“ May I be permitted to remark, that the East Indies have only been the latest, although the most important, scene of your military glory ? The public attention has long been fixed on former victories, in various other parts ; and the astonishing success at St. Lucie, with very inferior num-

bers, against the formidable strength of the ancient enemy of these kingdoms, is still related with patriotic enthusiasm. I will not go into any other particulars of your conduct in the field; nor dwell on that nice sense of honour which has marked your course through life. Your country approves and applauds; and the citizens of London inscribe your name in the illustrious list of the benefactors of this free nation.

“ I desire to add my fervent wishes, that you may long enjoy the fair fame and unsullied honours, which are the reward of superior merit and fortitude.”

The FOURTH was to earl Howe; on the 6th of May, 1796.

“ MY LORD,

“ I GIVE you joy: and in the name of the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons, of the city of London, in common-council

assembled, desire to congratulate your lordship on the brilliant and decisive victory of the British fleet, under your command, in the ever-memorable months of May and June, 1794—a proud epoch in the history of our glorious naval exploits !

“ The naval superiority so essential to the safety, honour, and dignity of our island, has been fully established, and (we hope) lastingly secured, under your lordship’s auspices. The navy has always been considered as our first and firmest bulwark ; and the same undaunted spirit which has, under the command of the admiral of the fleet, gained such signal conquest over a proud insulting foe, will, we are assured, continue to acquire fresh laurels, and preserve to England the homage of old Ocean.

“ My lord, it is impossible, on the present occasion, not to dwell with heartfelt satisfaction on the generous frankness and zeal, with which your lordship has called forth the conduct and valour of the partners of your glory, to share in the national triumph.

The gallant behaviour of all the officers, seamen, soldiers, and marines, who served on board the British fleet under your command, has not been passed over in oblivion ; but receives from the liberal hand of their superior, a fair and handsome share of the well-merited universal applause. This character of a true hero, must ever be remarked and admired in lord Howe.

“ My lord, in the present convulsed situation of Europe, and critical period of our own affairs, the utmost vigour and energy are necessary. In the most important department of the state, we are happy to see your lordship’s pre-eminence ; and we look forward to the future trials of your unconquerable spirit, skill, and science. May every year add to your public merit, fame, and honours, and to your private felicity !”

Lord Howe replied :

“ I AM much flattered, sir, by the favourable sentiments which my worthy fellow-citizens have done me the honour to entertain of

my professional endeavours, on the occasion you have mentioned ; the impression of which has been increased by the assurance of your obliging concurrence in them."

The FIFTH was to admiral sir Horatio Nelson, now viscount Nelson ; on the 28th of November, 1797.

" REAR-ADMIRAL SIR HORATIO NELSON,

" I give you joy ; and, with true satisfaction, I return you thanks, in the name of the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons, of the city of London, in common-council assembled : who have unanimously voted you the freedom of the capital, for your distinguished valour and conduct in the favourite service of the navy ; and particularly against a very superior force of the enemy, off Cape St. Vincent, on the 14th of February last.

" Many of our naval commanders have merited highly of their country by their

exertions ; but in your case, there is a rare heroic modesty, which cannot be sufficiently admired. You have given the warmest applause to your brother-officers, and the seamen under your command ; but your own merit you have not mentioned even in the slightest manner : and the relation of the severe and cruel wound you received in the service of your country, is transmitted to posterity by your noble commander-in-chief.

“ May you long live to enjoy the grateful benedictions of the country which you honour and protect ! ”

Admiral Nelson's Answer :

“ SIR,

“ NOTHING could be more gratifying to me (as it must be to every sea-officer) than receiving this day the high honour conferred upon me, in becoming a freeman of the city of London. And I beg you to believe, and to assure my fellow-citizens, that my hand and head shall ever be exerted, with

all my heart, in defence of my king, the laws, and the just liberties of my country; in which are included every thing which can be beneficial to the capital of the empire. I beg leave to return you, sir, my sincere thanks, for the very flattering expressions you have honoured me with on this occasion."

The sixth was to admiral Waldegrave; on the fifth of December, 1798.

"VICE-ADMIRAL THE HON. WM. WALDEGRAVE,

"I GIVE you joy: and I heartily join in the tribute of just applause, and well-merited acknowledgments, which the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council, have unanimously voted, for the services you have rendered our common country, in a scene of great danger and glory, on the 14th of February last.

"England is happy in possessing such

dauntless commanders ; and our navy triumphant in being thus led on to fame and victory.

“ It is the pleasing distinction which I hold by the favour of the livery of London, that it is my duty to record in the fair list of British worthies, those distinguished characters to whom we look up with affection and gratitude. Your name will be no inconsiderable addition to the proud annals of the metropolis ; and your example will prove a source of noble emulation in the present age, and of excitement to valour and virtue for those succeeding.”

To this elegant address, the gallant admiral returned the following appropriate answer :

“ ORATORY is not a British naval officer’s *forte*. We trust not to our words, but to our deeds ; and I thank God that, by the blessing of Providence, mine have been such as to merit the reward this day conferred upon me. Be assured, sir, that no man

can be more highly sensible of this very high honour, than I am : for what can be more sincerely gratifying to the feelings of a true born Englishman, than to find that he has merited the applause and good-will of his countrymen ? I can safely say, that, from the first hour of my arrival at command in the navy, to the present moment, it has ever been my most anxious wish and study to do that which I conceived to be most conducive to the good and the general welfare of my country ; and I can, with an equally safe conscience, add, that so long as I shall retain my strength and faculties, so long shall they be exerted in defence of the best of kings, and our glorious and matchless constitution. I beg, sir, you will be pleased to accept my best thanks, for the very polite and manly address with which you have just honoured me."

*Letter from Admiral Nelson to the Lord-
Mayor.*

*“ Vanguard, Mouth of the Nile,
August 8, 1798.*

“ MY LORD,

*“ HAVING the honour of being a free-
man of the city of London, I take the liber-
ty of sending to your lordship the sword of
the commanding French admiral (M. Blan-
quet) who survived after the battle of the
1st, off the Nile: and request, that the
city of London will honour me with the ac-
ceptance of it, as a remembrance that Bri-
tannia still rules the waves; which that
she ever may do, is the fervent prayer of*

“ your lordship’s

most obedient servant,

HORATIO NELSON.”

*“ The Right Hon. the Lord-
Mayor of London.”*

CATULLUS,
AND
THEOPHRASTUS.

CATULLUS.

IN the year 1788, Mr. Wilkes amused himself with printing, at the press of his deputy, John Nichols, esq. a very elegant, and perfectly correct, edition of Catullus.

Catullus was not one of the most eminent of the Latin poets; but he was a favourite of Mr. Wilkes. There was a kind of coincidence of circumstances between them, which probably gave rise to this partiality; for it can scarcely be supposed that the merit of Catullus, as a poet, was sufficient to gain the high esteem of Mr. Wilkes's ad-

mired talents and improved taste. It was like the resemblance which, Mr. Wilkes said, the case of Algernon Sydney bore to his own:—and he therefore admired Sydney almost to enthusiasm.

Catullus was indigent: so was Mr. Wilkes. Catullus had great patrons, but not liberal ones: so had Mr. Wilkes. Catullus excelled in a species of wit that was not very delicate: so did Mr. Wilkes. Catullus was the friend of liberty against Cæsar: Mr. Wilkes gave ample proofs of his warm attachment to liberty. This similarity of situation and sentiment must have gained Mr. Wilkes's affection; and therefore he made choice of his favourite author, to give a specimen of his classical accuracy and erudition.

In the year 1774, an edition of Horace was printed at Glasgow, which has been properly called immaculate. The sheets, as they were printed off, were hung up in the college of Glasgow, and a reward was of-

ferred to any person who should discover an error.

Mr. Wilkes's Catullus is equally immaculate. Not a word is misspelt; not a stop misplaced, or omitted.

The edition which Mr. Wilkes has principally followed, is that of Padua, of the year 1737. The title which he gave to his own was: "*Caius Valerius Catullus. Recensuit Johannes Wilkes, Anglus. Typis Johannis Nichols.*" It is a small quarto volume. Three copies were printed on vellum, and one hundred on fine writing paper. The greatest part of these he presented among his friends; and the following letters are among the many acknowledgments which he received.

LETTER I.

Downing-street, July 15, 1788.

MR. Pitt presents his compliments to Mr. Wilkes, and is extremely obliged to him for the edition of Catullus, which Mr. Wilkes has done him the honour to send this morning.

LETTER II.

Soho-square, July 18, 1788.

SIR Joseph Banks presents his compliments to Mr. Wilkes, and returns him many thanks for his very obliging and agreeable present, which he shall always carefully preserve as a testimony of his friendship :

which, though he has had but few opportunities of deserving it, he shall ever cherish with respect for superior abilities, and gratitude for the enjoyment of brilliant conversation.

LETTER III.

Great Portland-street, No. 40.

Tuesday Morning.

SIR,

I AM very much obliged to you for the very elegant book with which you have had the goodness to present me. Catullus has always been a favourite writer with me; and I have great pleasure in seeing him in the hands of so refined and so accurate an editor as yourself. To editions of classical authors so highly decorated with typogra-

phical ornament as that of your Catullus, we may, with the strictest propriety, apply the expression of *luxus eruditissimus*.

I remain, with great regard, sir,

your obliged and

obedient servant,

W. SEWARD.

LETTER IV.

Bradford, Yorkshire,

December 3, 1788.

SIR,

I LEARN from the public prints that you have printed an edition of Catullus, which is much admired for its superior elegance and accuracy. I directed my bookseller in town to procure me a copy; but he informs

me that it is a private book, and not to be purchased.

Having been engaged some time in preparing an edition of the same author with notes critical and historical, I wish much to see yours ; as it is said to be very correctly printed, and may be of use to me. I cannot ask you for one ; but if you will indulge me with a view of it, for a week or two, I will take care of it, and return it *in statu quo*.

I am, sir, with respect,

your very humble servant,

EDWARD BALDWIN,

*M. A. formerly Fellow
of St. John's, Oxford.*

LETTER V.

*Winchester College,**Dec. 3, 1789.*

DEAR SIR,

I RETURN you a thousand thanks for your very kind present of the most elegant edition of Catullus I ever saw. I set a greater value on it, because it reminds me of the many pleasant hours, and classical conversations, I formerly enjoyed with you; which I shall be happy to repeat, if you will do me the favour to call on me in your way to your pleasant cottage in the Isle of Wight: where I should certainly have visited you last summer, if I had passed (as I intended to do) some days with our friend sir Richard Worsley.

I am, dear sir,

your obliged and very old friend,

and humble servant,

JOS. WARTON.

THEOPHRASTUS.

IN the years 1789 and 1790, Mr. Wilkes employed his very active and very accurate deputy, to print for him a very beautiful, and perfectly correct, edition of the Characters of Theophrastus. It was a companion to his Catullus; and was a small quarto, like Catullus, printed in an excellent bold and clear type. The title page was

ΘΕΟΦΡΑΣΤΟΥ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΕΣ ΗΘΙΚΟΙ.

“*Johannes Wilkes, Anglus, recensuit. Londini, 1790, Typis Johannis Nichols.*”

In the early progress of printing the work, Mr. Wilkes sent some proof-sheets to Dr. Thomson, of Kensington, for him to examine; and the doctor transmitted them to his friend, W. Holwell, esq. at

Thornbury, near Bristol. In consequence of this communication, Mr. Holwell sent the following letter to Mr. Wilkes.

*“ Thornbury, near Bristol,
October 24, 1789.*

“ SIR,

“ MY good friend, Dr. Thomson, of Kensington, has transmitted to me a first-proof of an intended new edition of the Characters of Theophrastus. I beg to congratulate the public on two points: the one, that the remains of Theophrastus are likely to be sent into the world; and that you, sir, undertake it. The doctor, from too great a partiality to me, has desired me to give my opinion upon certain points; and he seemed to wish that my answer should be sent to yourself. This will, I trust, apologize for my addressing you.

“ The doctor writes, that the Vat. MS.* has no accents, no aspirates; but preserves the apostrophe. The want of accents proves

* The manuscript in the Vatican.

its antiquity : for I am fully convinced that accents are of modern invention ; and, as now used, are destructive of all quantity. Let any man read twenty lines in Homer or Sophocles, by accents as now used ; and that will be, I think, a sufficient answer to all the treatises which have been, or ever will be, written in their defence.

“ With regard to the Greek letters and words (I do not mean as to their form, which has varied in different ages), I humbly think that the ancient inscriptions would be the best guide. Muratori has the largest collection : but as the Vatican manuscript has omitted them, for uniformity's sake they may be omitted through the whole ; though I confess it to be singular. For the same reason, the apostrophe should be retained. The Vatican manuscript, as the doctor writes, retains it.—One thing is omitted, which I have taken the liberty to supply ; I mean the iota. This seems to me to be absolutely essential. Ancient inscriptions, &c. were generally

exhibited in capital letters, and then the iota was adjoined. I believe no instance can be produced of its omission. Does the Vatican manuscript omit it?

“As to the manner, I think it very good: the letter of a proper size; and the lines at proper distances. One thing I beg to object against; I mean capital letters to begin each sentence. I am no military man, yet I love a military review; and my eye would be offended to see here and there a perked-up grenadier of six feet four inches, breaking the line of five feet ten inches. Indeed, I would allow an officer, *pro dignitate*, like a proper name, to exceed in height. I have drawn a line through these grenadiers.

“It is quite right that ligatures should be banished. I have mentioned one or two other particulars to doctor Thomson; to whom I beg my best compliments.

“I have the honour to be, sir,

your very obedient servant,

W. HOLWELL.”

Mr. Wilkes seems to have profited by this advice. His edition of Theophrastus is without accents. Count Reviczky, the Imperial ambassador at the British court at this time, by whose persuasion Mr. Wilkes was influenced to print Catullus and Theophrastus, remonstrated with him upon the omission of the accents: Mr. Wilkes replied, that he would cheerfully be at the expence of printing a single copy for the count, if he would find a person who could make them, and correct them.

This is the only complete edition of Theophrastus that we know of: Mr. Wilkes having added the two chapters found in the Vatican, and separately edited by John Christopher Amadutius. There are no notes, nor any introduction, to Mr. Wilkes's edition. Only three copies were printed on vellum; and one hundred on fine writing paper. These he gave to his friends. Among the many acknowledgments which were sent to him for these presents, are the following.

LETTER I.

Althorp, October 17, 1790.

SIR,

THOUGH I have not the advantage of being personally acquainted with you, I cannot avoid taking the liberty of troubling you with a few lines, to return you my most sincere acknowledgments for the very obliging manner in which you have done me the honour to send me your beautiful edition of Theophrastus, upon vellum. I esteem myself peculiarly fortunate as a collector of scarce and valuable books, that, in consequence of my having purchased count Reviczky's collection, I am become the possessor of two books, not more desirable on account of the correctness and beauty of their execution, than from the name and reputation of their editor; whose talents and

abilities, having already made so distinguished a subject for our political, must in future be equally celebrated by our literary, historians.

I have the honour to be, sir,

with great truth,

your most obedient

humble servant,

SPENCER.

LETTER II.

Caen Wood, June 3, 1790.

LORD Mansfield returns many thanks to Mr. Wilkes for his *Theophrastus*; and congratulates him upon his elegant amusement. *Theophrastus* drew so admirably from nature, that his characters live through all times, and in every country.

LETTER III.

Park-place, May 29.

DEAR SIR,

I RETURN you many thanks for the valuable present, which I have this moment received, of your new edition of Theophrastus. Its value to me consists in its being a memorial, and not the first of the kind, of your friendship. As such, I shall ever sacredly preserve it; and shall contemplate it with more pleasure than the perusal could afford to many who possess the knowledge which I have unfortunately lost, if I can pretend to have ever attained it, of the language in which its contents are written.

I have the honour to be, dear sir,

your much obliged and

most faithful servant,

WARREN HASTINGS.

I am under a solemn engagement to sir John Elliott, and mean to perform it, that

I will learn the Spanish language for the purpose of reading Don Quixote in the original text of a beautiful impression which he gave me. If I have life and leisure, I will not despair of being able to qualify myself to profit in the like manner by your gift.

LETTER IV.

Soho-square, June 6, 1790.

I know not whether you extend the liberality with which you distribute to your friends copies of your valuable editions of the classics any further: but I do know that I have an application from the library of the university of Gottingen, now one of the very best in Europe; requesting that, as money will not purchase them, your goodness will place them there.

I do not mean to press upon any resolutions you have made on the subject. So shall only say, that in acceding to the prayer of their petition, you will command the gratitude of some very learned men.

Believe me, dear sir,

your faithful, obliged,

humble servant,

JOS. BANKS.

LETTER V.

Leicester-fields.

SIR Joshua Reynolds presents his compliments to Mr. Wilkes, and returns him many thanks for the present he has made him; the value of which is much increased, in his estimation, by the honour of receiving it from him.

He is very much flattered by Mr. Wilkes's polite attention to him.

LETTER VI.

Cavendish-square, June 5, 1790.

SIR John Thorold presents his compliments to Mr. Wilkes: is much honoured by his kind remembrance, and the valuable present he has made him of his edition of Theophrastus; which, he doubts not, is equally immaculate as his Catullus. He is much flattered by his acceptance of the trifles he ventured to offer; but as he could make no adequate compensation, he endeavoured to testify his grateful sense of his favours.

LETTER VII.

Queen's-square, June 5, 1790.

MR. Cracherode has the honour to return his thanks to Mr. Wilkes for the most complete edition of the Characters of Theophrastus as yet printed; and to express the very grateful sense he entertains of his repeated favours.

LETTER VIII.

Bushy-Park, Sept. 27, 1790.

SIR,

BEING possessed of a very good collection of the Greek and Latin authors, and some very curious editions, I cannot help entertaining an anxious desire of enriching

my library by the addition of your two elegant publications of Catullus and Theophrastus. But, alas ! I find by inquiry among all the booksellers, that they are not to be purchased ; and that I can only make that valuable acquisition by addressing myself to your liberality. That course I have therefore taken.

If you should have the goodness both to pardon and to comply with my application, be assured that no person on whom you may have conferred the same obligation, will set a higher value on the present than myself.

I have the honour to be, sir,

your most obedient

and most humble servant,

SYLVESTER DOUGLAS.

MR. WILKES'S

TOUR ON THE COAST.

THE fatigues which Mr. Wilkes endured by his faithful attention to his official duties, in the situation of lord-mayor, during the year 1775, required some relaxation. In the spring of 1776, he made a little excursion through some of the southern counties: while on this tour, he received the following letters from his daughter.

LETTER I.

London, July 15, 1776.

I AM happy, dear papa, to hear of your arrival at Brighthelmstone, after an agreeable tour from Godstone; and particularly rejoice in the favourable account of your

health. Accept the assurance of my feeling the sincerest gratitude for your most kind proposal, and attention to every particular concerning it.

I read your letter to Mrs. Molyneux this afternoon ; who is much obliged by every expression of your regard for her. I found the party would be extremely agreeable to her ; but, that the first wish in her mind was, to see her children : and that she had not yet received the value of the draft sent her from France. Another reason for her stay in town at present, is the idea given her by her son, that perhaps Mr. Molyneux may very soon bring over their two eldest daughters ; and she is every post in expectation of hearing what he intends doing with them : for it appears certain that he means the others to remain in France. It is impossible to be more friendly to us both, than this good-humoured cheerful lady ; and she expressed on this occasion how highly she was pleased whenever in your company.

As to myself, it is a constant satisfaction to me to flatter my mind that you are well acquainted with all the feelings of my heart towards you. Whatever most expresses them, will ever be what I shall have the truest pleasure in performing; and I must regret every interruption to my personal attentions. I hope the same indulgence I have so constantly experienced, and now with such peculiar kindness, will accept those in idea, which I should have been most happy to have paid at Brighthelmstone, had circumstances permitted me the agreeable journey. My dear papa's kind offer is engraven on my mind, with all his other goodness, never to be obliterated. I hope some other party equally pleasing will take place between the widow and ourselves; and she is as much disposed to it as we can wish.

The exercise and air of Brighthelmstone will, I flatter myself, be of infinite service to you; and I hope you will stay as long as may be of benefit to your health, or agree-

able to your inclination. If you please, we might go a few miles to meet you when you return ; which I should like extremely.

Bon soir, mon très cher papa ! et recevez avec votre bonté ordinaire le plus tendre respect.

LETTER II.

London, July 18, 1776.

YOUR accustomed goodness, dear papa, makes me uneasy at not having the pleasure of hearing from you to-day : but I flatter myself, some agreeable excursion in the environs of Brighthelmstone is the only reason of my disappointment.

I dined yesterday with Mrs. Molyneux, at Mr. Beckingham's, at Highgate ; and a very fine day shewed the prospect in all its beauty. I heard, the infant of B. S. is

to be made a Christian on Sunday seven-night : but the ceremony is not to be performed at the mansion-house, as at first mentioned.

Our friend in Berkeley-street is extremely obliging. She has received her money ; and has heard that her two eldest daughters are to return with Mr. Molyneux in a few days.

Permettez-moi, mon cher papa, de vous embrasser bien tendrement ; et je quitte la plume avec la douce espérance de la reprendre demain pour vous remercier d'une de vos aimables lettres.

LETTER III.

London, July 20, 1776.

I HAVE great pleasure in continuing to receive such favourable tidings of your health ; and I am very grateful for your kind exactness in writing to me.

The widow will dine with me to-morrow, on the Brighthelmstone fare ; when we shall certainly drink the health of the amiable patriot, the donor.—I was agreeably surprised this morning by a visit from Mr. Needham ; who has been in England a few days, and intends staying a fortnight longer. He told me, he came to settle Mr. Dillon's affairs, between his family and his creditors, previous to his marriage with miss Phipps, lord Mulgrave's sister ; who is now at Brussels, with her mother.—Mr. Needham is very desirous of seeing you, and left me his direction. I was much pleased to hear of his business : and it looks so well for him who brought up Mr. Dillon, to have the management of it. He has been to France on this occasion.

Accept the most respectful and tender adieu !

LETTER IV.

July 30, 1776.

I RECEIVED, dear papa, your kind favour of Saturday, in company with your old friend miss Goddard; who accepted of a *tête-à-tête* dinner with me yesterday. We had the Bath mutton you was so good as to send me. It was delicious; and we drank the health of the amiable donor. We had likewise the Bath cheese; which we both liked extremely.

At last you see that Mr. Luttrell is married. I beg you will ask lord Irnham where he has taken a house; as I wish to be among the first that wait upon the bride.

Mr. serjeant Adair called yesterday, to know if you was returned; and Mr. Mulliner sent this morning.

My grandmother is pretty well, and desires her love.

I have sent twice to inquire after Eliza. The accounts of her health are very indifferent, and she still keeps her room.

I received this morning some very pretty garters from the duchess De la Vallerie, with a letter from the baron. He mentions the fleet under the count D'Estaing having sailed the 13th. The destination of it is not known; but he imagines it is not intended to act on the offensive, but only to protect their West India islands. The baron says, "*la grossesse de la reine se soutient toujours.*"—The *chevaliere* is confined to her bed with a *rhumatisme goutteux*. She sends you *mille choses tendres*.

I passed Sunday afternoon at my uncle Heaton's: we were, indeed, *en famille*; for the circle consisted of seven, all of the name of Wilkes.

It gives me great pleasure to think your

present excursion will be beneficial to your health ; the first object in the wishes of,

dear papa,

your ever dutiful and

affectionate daughter,

MARY WILKES.

LETTER V.

London, August 6, 1776.

YOUR kind letter, my dear papa, has relieved me from great anxiety ; and I am truly happy to have such good foundation for the hope of your speedy recovery.

Mr. Bull, Mr. and Mrs. Hayley, Mr. Glynn's family, and Mr. Crompton, have sent their inquiries after you ; and count Lauragais made them personally this morning. He desired his best compliments ; and was not only very friendly, but very polite.

He looks extremely well. Mr. Needham has likewise called, and recommended a tour to Brussels and Spa for your recovery ; of which places he gave me very agreeable particulars.

Your health was drank to-day in Berkeley-street ; where I went to wish our widowed friend a good journey. She sets out to-morrow for Harwich, and will be some time absent. I shall be much obliged to you for the mutton, as I find in myself a good deal of an alderman's daughter.

I think your idea of the Hessian cavalry will suit all parties ; and it would be a great pity for Mr. Smith * to lose the advantage of the proficiency he made, in riding, under so good a master.

The account of your visitors much pleased me ; and I hope their acquaintance will be an amusement to you. All must be happy to know you. The attention was very obliging. I beg the ladies may be as-

* Mr. Wilkes's natural son.

sured of the respects of their old school-fellow.

Outre l'intérêt que mon cher papa inspire, comme il sait prendre tous les tons il sera partout recherché et aimé. J'ai eu hier la visite de monsieur—mademoiselle D'Eon; et celle de ce matin aussi, me rende toute Françoise aujourd'hui. Le chevalier a parlé de vous avec tous les égards possible, et je l'ai trouvé fort gai. Les visites ne m'ont donné aucune nouvelle.

I trust, my dear papa, in your usual goodness, to give me frequent accounts of your most valuable health. Be assured that your kindness makes the deepest impression on a heart which has every feeling for you to the utmost extent.

LETTER VI.

London, Aug. 9, 1776.

I AM very happy to have my most pleasing expectations realized in the satisfactory accounts I am just favoured with. The detail you are pleased to give me of your health is truly kind to a mind you occupy entirely ; and I trust my wishes will be equally gratified in your next letters. I beg leave to in-
close messrs. De Vaubert's recipe, which did you so much good in France ; as it will be a pleasure to me to know you have it to try again, if necessary, and agreeable to you.

I rejoice in your pleasures ; particularly in your going to that favourite spot, the Isle of Wight. It appears to me a long while since I have seen you ; and the time of my anxiety is indeed very tedious : but I shall now give myself leave to cherish every agreeable

idea concerning you ; and the first will be the hope that the remainder of your absence will do your health the most signal service.

The direction I send came with two small hams, that I fancy to be Westphalian. Would you think it a proper compliment to the family at Preston, to send one or both ? Excuse my mentioning this, since it proceeds from the satisfaction at all regard shewn you. I could send them directly.

I find count Lauragais' favourite has given him a daughter. I am sorry it is not a son. An English little Lauragais of the other sex would, I think, have proved an original, and much entertained him. Whatever the female proves, the character cannot be so *piquant* ; besides the inconveniences attending singularity in a woman.

I was yesterday at Clapham. Your old acquaintances have made a short visit there from Epsom ; and gave me an obliging invitation to be with them part of the time my mamma will be there. I should be very

glad to have your permission to stay a few days or a week with them, which would be a trifling expence; it would much oblige my mamma, and look well to the world. To have *that* one's friend, is a good thing whatever happens; a comfort in expectation, and a reward to good conduct.—Mr. Pugh called to inquire after you.

I return, with thanks, Mr. Smith's letter*; which I think is wrote in a very good hand. I suppose you have not much idea of his improving his style in a commercial city†; but I hope, in other respects, he will make a good use of his stay.

Every wish and every assurance attend you.

I forgot to mention, my mamma wishes to go to Epsom the last week in August.

* His natural son.

† Hamburgh.

LETTER VII.

August, 1776.

I AM just returned, my dear papa, from a party at Foote's, with the Meads. I rejoice most sincerely at your agreeable tour; and, did it suit your pleasure and arrangements, I own I should now be glad it were prolonged till my little excursion was over, since one is come so near the other.

Foote gave his new piece, called the *Capuchin*; which character in it he acted. It was performed to a full and candid audience. There was great applause, but rather more disapprobation. Our party agreed that there were some good strokes, particularly in the first act; but, on the whole, that it is an indifferent piece. Great part of it runs on the stale jokes occasioned by Irish blunders. Foote spoke a good prologue.

We have had torrents of rain here. I hope your weather is better.

The count of Bourbon is gone. He has been here several times, chatting in the French style; and has shewn me a great deal of confidence, by talking to me of his affairs, reading me the history of his life, &c. You will be amused and interested by being acquainted with both. He has a great admiration of Mr. Wilkes, and wishes to know him intimately on his return.

LETTER VIII.

Epsom, Aug. 29, 1776.

I LEFT town, my dear papa, with true concern, that chance should have been so much against me; and should have occasioned me to leave it just after the pleasure of seeing you, when I had been deprived of it six weeks.

The first part of my ride here was disagreeable, on account of the dust ; but after my exchange, it was very pleasant : and, what was remarkable on so great a road as that to Portsmouth, we did not meet one carriage from Martin here.—My grandmamma obliged me with my conveyance, in the kindest manner ; and I was agreeably surprised, on meeting my mamma's coach, to see Mrs. M. Warkman. The sisters inquired very obligingly after you, and received me in the most friendly manner.—My mamma intended to have left this place with me on Monday ; but the ladies have pressed her so much to stay, that she has deferred going till Wednesday, when she will certainly return to Clapham unless the elements should interpose. She has proposed my going back with her to dinner, and returning to town in her coach early in the afternoon. The ladies have kindly desired me to make this little difference in my stay with them ; and as it will be so trifling, I beg leave to request it of my dear papa. By this means,

my return would be no expence, nor any inconvenience, to him or my grandmamma. —We have a good deal of wind here to-day, and improve it to hear the melancholy sounds of the Æolian harp. Some hard showers have prevented my walking this morning; but it promises to be fine very soon.

I hope to hear you have determined on some little excursions during my short absence, and that they may contribute to confirm your health. I flatter myself with receiving the most happy tidings of it to-morrow.

Agréez, mon cher papa, les hommages les plus respectueux et les plus tendres.

MR. WILKES'S

JOURNEY to BATH.

TOWARDS the end of the year 1777, Mr. Wilkes was attacked by a fever. Being advised by the faculty to try the Bath waters, he set out for that place in the Christmas holidays ; and during his continuance there, his daughter sent him the following letters.

LETTER IX.

January 13, 1778.

I AM infinitely obliged to you, dear papa, for your kind attention in writing to me ; and particularly for the indulgent wishes with which you favoured me the first day of the new year.

I sincerely rejoice at the considerable collection already made for the American prisoners. Your name will do honour to the list ; and though the sum which it has subscribed marks the blindness of Fortune, yet you have shewn the humanity and other characteristics of your mind.

I was in hopes, dear papa, of sending you some French game to-night : but it is now too late to expect any by to-day's coaches ; and, I believe, the French post is not yet arrived. The French ambassador's courier is, however, come.

The baron mentions to me the death of the marquis De Pezay, occasioned by ambition. He made many enemies ; and the vexation they gave him brought on a fever, which was fatal. I am really sorry for it.

Be so good as to make my acknowledgments to those who have favoured me with their remembrances ; and I am doubly indebted to miss Rian.

I have at last seen the widow Gordon. I

think her just the same, and her daughters improved.

My grandmamma desires her love; the amiable widow, her compliments. I am happy to find you lead so regular a life, and am much edified that lord Kelly approves it.

Good night! dear papa, and accept the warmest affection and duty.

LETTER X.

IT is impossible, dear papa, to alleviate absence with more kindness than that with which you indulge me. I received with the greatest pleasure the most obliging letters that welcomed my return last night.

Mais vos bontés ont bien voulu mettre trop de prix à une petite attention fort au-dessous de ce que mon cœur éprouve.

I am happy, dear papa, in your safe arrival at Bath ; and the chearful style of your letter gives me a pleasing hope of the amendment of your health.

I made a variety of visits yesterday morning ; and in the afternoon went to Great Alie-street, Clement's-lane, &c. Mr. and Mrs. Hayley were not at home : I saw the housekeeper, and inquired particularly after my cousin, who is something better.

I made a very agreeable visit to Mrs. Canning, and saw the party who had dined there—colonel Miles, Mr. Nugent, &c.

Very late last night came a basket from Calais ; containing three hares, eight partridges, and four capons. I immediately had all fresh packed for the alderman*, except *un animal à quatre pattes, deux perdrix, et un imparfait* ; which, I flatter myself, his worship will forgive my keeping.

* Mr. Wilkes himself.

LETTER XI.

I HAVE the tribute of gratitude to return you, dear papa, for your kind billet of Monday, and the thin paper which attended it. I imagine you destine part of the value for Mulliner; and that you have either wrote to him to come here, or in your next letter will let me know if you wish I should send for him.—Reynolds received his allowance on Saturday.

The member for Lynn has sent a very fine turkey, with sausages; and I thought you would approve my writing a card of thanks. The widow desires her compliments: she was so kind as to partake of the *piper* to-day, which was extremely good; and we drank the health of the alderman*.

* Mr. Wilkes.

I am sorry you are not on the parades, as I know them to be your favourite situations. Mrs. Glynn and her sister from Bath are just gone. I have not yet seen the widow Gordon : there seems to be a spell against our meeting.

To-morrow I am to be in Red-lion-court ; where I hope you will not be displeased at my making a compliment of the Norfolk turkey, since you are absent.

My grandmamma is pretty well, and desires her love.

Recevez, mon cher papa, les assurances les plus tendres et les plus respectueuses.

LETTER XII.

*Prince's-court,
January 26, 1778.*

MANY thanks, my dear papa, for the fish ; which I received on Saturday night,

and it proved very fresh and good: but I am still more obliged to you for the kind letter you favoured me with on Sunday; as hearing from my dear papa is my first pleasure, when he is absent.

I am sorry Mrs. Macaulay should make herself so ridiculous. She must have gone through town, on her return; and Mrs. Beckingham's amiable disposition is much hurt at not seeing her.—I should like extremely to know who the people were Mrs. Macaulay saw at Paris. Her old Englishwoman remained to attend her daughter, at Mrs. Sawbridge's desire.

I go to Red-lion-court to-morrow; and will therefore defer having the wine unpacked till Thursday, that I may attend to it as much as possible myself. I was much entertained at the lady's direction.

Please to make my compliments wherever you think proper.

The widow, my very obliging friend, sets out for Bath to-morrow; but, I suppose, will

not arrive there till Friday, as she travels with her own horses.

LETTER XIII.

April 13, 1778.

BONNES nouvelles de Calais! Le froc François du patriote Anglois est retiré du vaisseau du capitaine Gunston, et doit arriver très incessamment par les soins des Messrs. Minet & Co.

I have just received a letter, dear papa, from Mr. Caffieri, with the above intelligence. I hope the coat will now arrive very soon, quite safe; and that sometimes red, sometimes blue, it will on both sides become a Ranelagh waistcoat.

Mrs. Cox would be much obliged to you to inquire after her picture at Mr. Hoare's.

He does not know her by her married name.

*Recevez, mon cher papa, les hommages
les plus tendres et respectueux.*

LETTER XIV.

April 14, 1778.

I WAS made happy, dear papa, by receiving the favours of your two letters. They arrived just as I was going to the Meads; from whence I am now returned, after a very agreeable afternoon.

Vous êtes bien heureux, mon cher papa, d'être toujours accompagné d'une gaieté aussi aimable; il est vrai que je craignois pour vous des journées fatigantes, par des chemins rudes, et n'ayant pour vous reposer sur la route que de mauvaises auberges. I trust, however, that the rural scene of Bath will

soon restore you.—Notwithstanding all that Mr. *patriot* Wilkes says, I confess myself impatient to receive the present of a French duchess ; but, if he pleases, I will satisfy his scruples by agreeing never to use any French cup and saucer, except when *he* wears his French coat.

Adieu, dear papa ! accept the warmest duty that affection and gratitude can feel and sincerely offer.

LETTER XV.

I HAVE to thank you, dear papa, for two pair of very fine soles, received this afternoon. The finest of them I sent to my grandmamma.

A French mail came in to-day ; but I have yet no further intelligence of *the al-aerman's* coat.

I shall drink the health of the donor of

the fish to-morrow ; and join in the libation à favourite of yours, my good friend madame De Chantereine, from whom I have just received a most affectionate letter.—The queen of France is now said to be certainly with child ; *elle a des foiblesses, des maux de cœur, qui ne permettent plus d'en douter.*

I have received by the *petite poste* a note from the baron, with the bill of your coat. I am impatient to have the honour of a bow from you in it at Ranelagh.—The baron says, *On parle de paix plus que jamais ici.* The Mr. Adams arrived at Paris, is to replace Mr. Deane. He does not speak French ; and, what appears very strange, he knew nothing of the treaty till his arrival in France. One might think from that, there was some truth in the reports here of its not being ratified, &c. &c. I am rejoiced that the commissioners are gone.

I shall attend to-morrow the summons of the neighbouring bell. If I was Mr.

Churchill I would say, it was the only *belle* to which you could be indifferent.

Every assurance of duty and affection attend my dear papa. *Parlez-moi, je vous supplie, de votre santé.*

LETTER XVI.

I HAD great pleasure, dear papa, in finding your kind billet of Monday, on my return last night from Red-lion-court.

I begin to be uneasy at not receiving your coat ; and intend writing to-morrow to Mr. Caffieri, to inform him that it is not yet arrived.

Mrs. Workman returns to Epsom to-day. She has been so kind as to give me a very elegant locket, in the shape of a heart, with a figure of Grief mourning over an

urn, under a weeping willow ; executed in the hair of our old valuable friend miss Polly.

The widow desired me to send her love, or compliments : I told her I certainly would the first.—The weather here continues very cold. I hope it is better at Bath.

Recevez, mon cher papa, les hommages les plus tendres et respectueux ; et continuez vos bontés à votre agneau.

LETTER XVII.

YOUR very indulgent goodness, my dear papa, in writing to me with so much exactness, I feel with the utmost sensibility and pleasure.

We are all shivering in town, and sitting as close to the fire as if we were in January.

I am very sorry for colonel Whitmore and doctor Macnamara. How much is it to be

lamented, that the evils attendant on human nature are so often the lot of the most worthy !

I have received a letter from the baron, containing an anecdote of the marechal De Biron ; which I transcribe, as I am sure it will please you.

Le marechal de Biron, colonel des gardes Françoises, qui sait estimer votre nation, apprenant que l'amiral Rodney, qui a eu beaucoup de succès contre nous dans la dernière guerre, étoit obligé de retarder son départ à cause qu'il devoit, le marechal lui a fait offrir mille Louis pour s'acquitter et le mettre dans le cas de pouvoir aller offrir son secours à sa patrie. Ce trait a parfaitement réussi parmi vos compatriotes à Paris. He says likewise, that Voltaire has taken a house at Paris.

I passed yesterday with my mother, whom I found much better.

Mr. Bishop, the mace-bearer, has been to invite you into the city next Monday ; and

made a very formal speech on the occasion for your worship.

I am just arrived from my grandmamma's: she is pretty well, and desired her love. My eldest uncle has given up the scheme he last mentioned.

Please to make my compliments to all who are so obliging as to remember me.

I shall fast with the widow to-morrow: and I hope you will keep the day with equal strictness at least,—as senator, as city magistrate, as Middlesex justice; and particularly, to be exemplary in the dissipated place you are gone to convert.

Agréez, mon cher papa, les hommages les plus tendres de mon cœur.

LETTER XVIII.

ACCEPT, dear papa, the tribute of the most sincere gratitude for your last favour; rendered much dearer to me by your kind

and indulgent expressions, than by the value of what your goodness inclosed.

I am sorry to find you have had a change of weather. That which we experience here, continues equally disagreeable.

I saw the king pass yesterday on his way to Greenwich : I am glad of an excursion calculated to please the navy.

Voltaire's being made a freemason surprises me ; for I should never have thought of his having lived so long without being of that fraternity ; or that, being now so old, he should think the secret worth his knowledge.

Adieu, mon très cher sénateur ! Je forme pour vous tous les vœux que peuvent inspirer les liens les plus chéris de tendresse et de respect.

LETTER XIX.

I WAITED, my dear papa, with great impatience for to-day's post, from the pleasing hope of receiving a favourable account of your health ; and I am more concerned than I can express, to have the contrary.—I trust, the latter part of the article in the London Packet is not true. Pray, has the cause assigned, any foundation?—I hope in God to have happier news to-morrow, till when I shall be all anxiety. Should my dear papa's fever continue, I intreat him to return, if possible, to be in the hands of his good and skilful friend ; or permit me to attend him without delay. I have asked Mr. Churchill's opinion ; who advises the bark, in the same manner as before. Allow me to recommend the utmost care of yourself, in the tenderest manner.—I rejoice you are with such agree-

able company, and have so much attention shewn to your health. Please to make my compliments and acknowledgments.

Many thanks for the copy of the baron's letter ; and, according to your obliging desire, I will send you my opinion of the proposal to-morrow. At present, I can think on nothing but my dear papa's health, and form the most ardent wishes for more satisfactory tidings by next post.

LETTER XX.

WE have delightful weather in town, my dear papa ; and I hope the elements are equally favourable where you are. So agreeable a circumstance will, I trust, be propitious to your recovery ; the idea of which is what most pleases me in remarking it.

I beg leave again to thank you for baron Boden's letter, and for desiring my opinion on the subject. I am persuaded he would

readily do all in his power to oblige you and Mr. Canning ; and his interest must be very good at the court of Cassel, which I take to be one of the most considerable among the German courts. I suppose they have all adopted the discipline of that great master in the art military, the king of Prussia ; and the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel having married a princess of Brandenburg, may make that court among those that march *à la Prussienne*.

I should hope Mr. Smith* would be secure from going to America ; but whether more troops may not, perhaps, be engaged from some of the same princes, is a consideration of such great importance, that I think it would be desirable to have (if possible) a certainty of his being released from such horrid service. I am surprised that the baron should say the king of

* Mr. Wilkes's natural son. This circumstance shews that Mr. Wilkes was not less attentive to his son's future condition, than he had been to his education.

Prussia cannot name an ensign in his own regiment.

Pray, in what manner do you mean Mr. Smith should go—as a volunteer, or to buy him a commission? I fancy the baron has no interest with the present monarch there; but will have a powerful one in the next reign. Such a recommendation is, I think, a very strong inducement to prefer Hesse; and I see only two reasons, with that already mentioned, to balance it: whether you think Mr. Smith might imbibe notions there disagreeable to you? or, whether you thought it most useful to him to be placed on the largest scale? Since you are pleased to ask my opinion; give me leave to say, I am of the same which appears to be yours: and I think there is the most agreeable opening for Hesse. I suppose you could have particulars from the baron; or he might mention from whom to have them at his court. He is to me the French marquis, instead of the German baron. Be so kind as to desire Mr. Canning to make him

the most polite acknowledgments in my name. I desire to finish this subject, with my warmest wishes for Mr. Smith's happiness.

I go to Clapham to-morrow, till the next morning. The amiable widow desires her best compliments. She goes to Harwich on Sunday.

Agréez, mon cher papa, tous les sentimens dont mon cœur est pénétré pour vous.

LETTER XXI.

AS you desired me, dear papa, to send your packet last night to Brighthelmstone, I think I must be right in directing your papers and letters there to-day; and hope to have your approbation.

Mrs. Conti is come to town, in a great hurry, on account of the baggage. She sent it before her, being seized on an information. Poor woman! besides that distress, she has

another embarrassment; occasioned by the laws of France obliging her to have the consent of her husband's brother (as his heir) before she can receive any money. I have not yet seen her; but she has sent me word, she will call the first moment she can. I long to see her, and give all the consolation I can to so amiable and unfortunate a friend.

I go to Clapham to-morrow, till Thursday afternoon; when I hope to have the pleasure of finding a letter from you. I will send the papers as to-day.

Our Esculapius is gone to Margate. I flatter myself, your tour continues perfectly agreeable: and your pleasures give the truest satisfaction to

my dear papa's

constantly affectionate

and dutiful daughter.

I beg you to make my best compliments to your party, if you think they would be agreeable.

LETTER XXII.

I WAS made happy, dear papa, on Saturday, by your kind letter. I received it on my return from the agreeable widow's, who is all obligingness to me. Mrs. Conti was of the party, and we only wanted the *alderman* to make it complete.

No notice has been taken to me of the French pye, or the note which attended it ; but I hope the obliging remembrance on your part will be acknowledged.

One of the soles you favoured me with, I sent to my grandmamma ; and I had the pleasure of finding it proved acceptable. I believe fish is more so to her than any other eatable.

I rejoice in your resolution of not supping, and of keeping good hours. Your perseverance in it, joined to taking the *baume*,

and an agreeable journey, will, I hope, give me the happiness of seeing you quite recovered.

I will certainly write about the game; and am sorry for the *contresens* of my letter, but I trust it will not have any consequence.

What do you think of lady Mary O'Brien's marriage? I hear Mr. Fitzmaurice is twenty years older than her ladyship; and that his mother is so fond of him, she fears he should not live comfortably with ten thousand a-year.

Mr. Mackay, of Hackney, has got one of the 20,000*l.* prizes.

Monday Evening.

Many thanks, dear papa, for your last letter; which I have just received, on my return from my grandmamma's. She desired her love.

Agrééz, je vous supplie, le plus tendre respect.

LETTER XXIII.

I WAS extremely mortified, dear papa, not to write to you yesterday; but I attempted it in vain. I was taken in the morning with a pain in my stomach; which continued increasing till the afternoon, when I was relieved by a violent natural emetic. I went to bed at eight; and having thoroughly nursed myself, I am now quite recovered. I would not have mentioned this trifling circumstance, if it had not unluckily interfered with my duty and inclination.

It makes me happy to think your return near; and I hope you will have a very agreeable journey to town. Stourton must be delightful, in all the beauty of spring.—I have received a commission from *madame la duchesse*, which I hope will be entertaining to you as well as to myself: it is,

to send her regularly *Le Courier*, &c.; and I have accordingly given directions for it to be sent here.

Saturday Evening.

I have received the pleasure of your kind billet, on my return from the widow's; where I met the Adairs, who inquired much after you. We have had some fine mild rains, that make the park look beautiful. I hope they will contribute to the pleasure of your tour. Mrs. Molyneux desires her compliments. Every body is talking of our fleet at Portsmouth, and that under the count D'Estaing. I am very glad of the king's tour, as I think every encouragement should be given to the navy.

On a fait une plaisanterie à Paris sur la grossesse de la reine; en disant, " Oh, pour cela, elle est grosse: l'enfant a remué; il a donné un coup de pied à Monsieur, et un autre à monseigneur le comte d'Artois."

Mrs. Conti inquired very particularly after you this morning. Her father is just returned into Yorkshire; a circumstance I must

rejoice in, as his longer stay with her was incompatible with her tranquillity—his temper is so unfortunate. She had endeavoured to please him by every effort, without success; and this amiable worthy woman has given up part of her slender income, to render her father's life more comfortable.

May health and happiness attend you, dear papa! is the constant prayer of

your ever dutiful and

affectionate daughter,

MARY WILKES.

LETTER XXIV.

I HOPE, dear papa, I may judge by your gaiety that you are quite well. I rejoiced to hear the weather continued fine at Bath; which, I trust, has given you some agreeable excursions in the environs. We have very

high winds here, and frequent hard showers. Indeed, at present it blows quite a hurricane, and the house shakes.

The soles were as good in flavour, as fine in their appearance.

I have had your bed cleaned : it is very well done ; and I flatter myself you will approve so necessary a job. It gives me pleasure to have done what will be comfortable to my dear patriot. *Tout ce qui regarde un objet chéri, est une occupation bien douce ; vous me le faites sans cesse éprouver, et j'en jouis surtout en renouvelant à mon cher papa ma respectueuse tendresse.*

LETTER XXV.

Epsom, Sept. 7, 1779.

WE are preparing, my dear papa, to leave this place ; and we are to dine at Clapham to-morrow. I hope to have the happiness of finding you quite well on Friday morning ; when I shall arrive, alderman-like, with some Darking fowls for your acceptance.

The venison was excellent.

*Agréez, mon cher papa, les hommages
les plus respectueux et les plus tendres.*

LETTER XXVI.

Epsom, Sept. 8, 1779.

DEAR PAPA,

THE first page of your letter gave me sincere pleasure ; but the second, great concern : though I am equally obliged by both,

as they shew the very kind attention you favour me with. I was much shocked by the fire at colonel Gordon's, which must exceedingly alarm you ; and I shall be very impatient for to-morrow's post, in the hope of hearing you are not the worse for so great an agitation, and that the danger of the fire breaking out again is quite over. I should be glad to know in what part of colonel Gordon's house it broke out, and what damage it did ? It seems very odd to me, he should so soon leave home after such an accident. It was very fortunate you was not gone out, nor your servants ; and that there was no want of water : as well as its happening, so early in the evening.

I am extremely hurt by admiral Byron's defeat, and by what I saw in last night's London Chronicle. I should suppose he engaged very unwillingly. It seems probable, I think, that there will be no engagement in the Channel this season. The arrival of the East India fleet is happy, and I hear we have taken two more French East India-

men. I fear, the consequences of D'Estaing's success will not end with the taking of the Grenadas. I shall be unhappy till there is some brilliant action to the honour of the British flag.

I mentioned to you, dear papa, that I was to go to Mrs. Nicholl's. We saw there her son-in-law, Mr. Trinder, a clergyman; who is a very agreeable man. He told us an anecdote of Dr. Butler, bishop of Oxford;* which, as I never heard you mention it, I am induced to write.—Dr. Butler being promised the bishopric of Chester by lord North, on the vacancy he went to court, to kiss hands on his appointment. The minister, seeing him, acquainted the king of the reason of his being there; but his majesty told lord North, that the queen having heard Dr. Porteus† preach, was so pleased with him, that she insisted on his having the vacant bishopric. Dr. Butler was so affected at the disappointment, it was with difficulty he got

* Now of Hereford.

† The present bishop of London.

out of the drawing-room without fainting away. It has happened fortunately for him, that, having the promise of the next bishopric, he has now got that which could be the most agreeable to him, by bringing him among all his old connections—Oxford.

I am, dear papa,

your ever dutiful

and tender daughter,

MARY WILKES.

LETTER XXVII.

Epsom, Sept. 10, 1779.

DEAR SIR,

I AM extremely obliged by your kind attention in sending me the newspapers, which are a great amusement to all the party; and you may depend on my care to

bring them back. Your obliging letter of Wednesday made me happy to think you was not the worse for the alarm of the fire at colonel Gordon's, and that dear Prince's-court was become quite calm.—We are just returned from a very agreeable visit at Mrs. Chamier's: the under-secretary came from town while we were there, by whom we found that the news from the West Indies is to be in the next gazette. I should be very glad, dear papa, if you could get it sent me to-morrow night, without interfering in the least with the early hour of your *coucher*. It is some consolation to find things not so bad as at first represented; and I rejoice that admiral Barrington could be at court yesterday, and that the success of the French cost them very dear.

This has been a pleasant day; but I have as yet made no excursion, and all my exercise has been confined to a little walking. My mother's dislike to going out makes her quite ingenious to find reasons to avoid any

rides. We do not breakfast till after ten, and we dine at three ; which reduces the mornings to nothing, as allowance must be made for dress. Before breakfast I walk alone, and read the contents of the packets you have the goodness to send me.

To-day I had a letter from miss Touchet, who informs me she is going to be married ; but without particulars, which I regret. I sincerely wish her the happiness she so highly deserves.—The other letter was from Mrs. Molyneux, mentioning very disagreeable circumstances ; and she seems quite melancholy. She expresses the most obliging sense of our attentions.

My mamma intends leaving this place on Tuesday. She has not yet said any thing about our going afterwards to Biggin ; but I suppose it will be agreeable to her to make that excursion, according to her first plan. That will fix my return to the middle or latter end of next week, when I hope for the happiness of seeing you in perfect health.

I thank you for the abbé's letter ; *mais*

sa plaisanterie est dépourvue de délicatesse, et n'a pas le ton de la bonne compagnie. I find Swinburne very entertaining.—I flatter myself to-morrow's post will bring me a few lines *de votre main chérie.* None goes from hence on Saturdays.

Take care of your health, my dear papa ; for which the most ardent wishes are constantly formed by

your most dutiful and
affectionate daughter,

The *Lamb*, the *Tygress*, la
marquise d'Estampes,

and under every possible present
or future denomination.

LETTER XXVIII.

*Prince's-court,**December 31, 1779.*

A THOUSAND thanks, dear papa, for your kind letters of Tuesday and Wednesday. The dear widow seems highly delighted by your attention to her birth-day; and I am now going to send the order you were so obliging as to send on Thursday. As Sunday interferes, I think it would be better not to risk any fish.

You will find by the inclosed, that Mr. Vandenclooster has done your commission with much civility.—I have not yet heard from the worthy *bonne*, which surprises me.—My grandmamma is tolerable; except the complaint on her breath, which I fear distresses her a good deal. She desires her love, and Mrs. Smyth her compliments.

I shall have the pleasure of beginning the new year by paying my duty to that be-

loved father to whom I am always happy to afford the tribute of my affection and gratitude.

LETTER XXIX.

*Prince's-court,
January 1, 1780.*

I BEG leave to begin the new year by the most agreeable employment. Allow me to intreat, through successive years, the continuance of that indulgence which, in all I have yet experienced, has been the dearest satisfaction to my heart. The justice done you at the close of last year, could not but heighten all my feelings for us both; and they are now, thank heaven, full of pleasing prospects.

I am very glad of your determination to return on the 11th—a punctuality which will still add to the good opinion formed of the

worthy chamberlain of London. I see by the papers, Mr. Jones has demanded a scrutiny. I fancy one may think from that measure, he is much mortified; and I suppose the perseverance will be a great expence to him.

I am going to dine with the widow, who inquires after you whenever we meet. She passed the holidays in *the country*—the polite word for *Limehouse*.—By your accounts I guess Dr. Wilson to be in a dangerous way. If he is determined to publish the letters, I wish that in which Mrs. M. is mentioned could be omitted; and there would remain quite enough to answer his purpose, I do not doubt.

I am flattered by lord Kelly's attention, and desire to return compliments to his lordship.

Bon soir, très cher papa!

LETTER XXX:

*Prince's-court,**Monday Evening, January 3.*

I AM greatly obliged to you for your kind wishes on new-year's day.—I shall be happy in performing your commission to my grandmamma. I saw her last night, when she was very indifferent with shortness of breath.

I dined yesterday at my uncle Heaton's, *en famille*. Mr. Palmer, the dissenting minister, told my grandmamma the other day, that he heard the chamberlain gave great satisfaction. Walker has sent a fine haunch of venison, which I do not doubt will answer to its appearance. The Norfolk captain arrived on Saturday in Berkeley-street, to the great joy of our female friends there. We are to be a large party there to-morrow. The weather is very disagreeable here; frost, thaw, and fog, alternately. I hope it

continues as favourable at Bath as you first mentioned.

I have heard of a new print of a *gentleman* going to Hanover on horseback, with his lady behind him ; holding an infant, and several other children desiring his attention.

I find the account of admiral Hyde Parker's success is generally believed. The Dutch, I hear, will bear the taking of their ships very quietly.

Je me flatte que la santé et les plaisirs contribuent également à rendre le séjour de Bath agréable à mon cher papa. Je lui présente les hommages les plus tendres et les plus respectueux, et je jouis de l'espoir de voir sa physionomie annoncer les effets heureux de sa tranquillité d'esprit.

LETTER XXXI.

*Prince's-court,**January 6, 1780.*

MANY thanks, dear papa, for the entertaining French verses ; and many more for the pleasure of the letter which they accompanied. I have transcribed them, and inclose them as you desired. I can solve the difficulty you and lord Kelly are in concerning "*parfilage*." "*Parfiler*" is (like Penelope's night-work) constantly undoing ; and to me so insipid an employment, that I wonder how the French ladies, who have so much vivacity, can take such pleasure in it as they do in numbers. It consists merely in untwisting gold thread ; that is, separating the gold from the silk it is twisted with in order to be woven or worked. The vogue of this employment

occasions a great many presents being made of pieces of gold stuff, &c. merely to be undone; and I take "*le pigeon de parfilage*," with the other things mentioned, to be of that sort. At the *jour de l'an* of last year, the duchess mentioned a great number of presents given her on the occasion, *pour parfiler*. You see that neither taste nor ingenuity is shewn in this, as in other amusements of the female sex.

I have just received a letter from the duchess, in which she gives you good advice. I am not going to copy it for the compliment at the conclusion; but to make you smile, and that you may see the interest she takes in your affairs. "*Je vous souhaite une bonne année: celle-ci a bien finie pour le sénateur, et par consequent pour vous. Qu'il se conduise bien; qu'il ne fasse plus de dettes, et qu'il paye tout doucement les anciennes; enfin, qu'il fasse dire de lui tout le bien qu'il merite, et qu'il prouve qu'il a mérité une fille charmante comme vous.*"

Quand le comte d'Estaing est arrivé à Versailles,

le roi étoit à la chasse ; et il n'a vu cette fois que monsieur de Sartine, et monsieur de Maurepas, chez lesquels il s'est rendu. Il n'avoit pas encore pu retourner à la cour le 26 Decembre, les médecins lui ayant defendu de sortir. Le comte d'Estaing a la jambe gauche retirée (contracted) par sa blessure, et il est fort maigri. There was no news of the remainder of his fleet when the baron wrote.

I was very well entertained last night at the play ; but regretted that the wit in Love for Love should be so often disfigured by indecency. The altered pantomime is extremely well executed, and with very good scenery. The storming of fort Omoa is an amazing contrivance ; done with excellent perspective, and a most glorious noise. The sailor with the two cutlasses is introduced : but they have made additions to the story that hurt it greatly.

An officer from sir Henry Clinton is said to have arrived with an account to government of admiral Hyde Parker's success, as reported some time past.

*Bon soir, mon très cher et très aimable papa!
agréez mes respectueux et tendres hommages.*

LETTER XXXII.

*Grosvenor-square,
July 15, 1795.*

EVER-DEAR PAPA,

I AM happy to find that your health has not suffered, as I feared it might, by such inauspicious weather ; and I flatter myself the accounts will be more favourable in every succeeding letter, but I cannot divest myself of considerable anxiety. I had the favour of yours of Sunday on the following day ; a regularity I heartily wish may continue.—I am glad you have plenty of strawberries, and that Trusty is a constant attendant, as becomes his species and his name.—There have been several mobs for some days past at Charing-

cross and in St. George's-fields, chiefly excited by the falsehoods of bad people about more crimping. They assembled also in Downing-street, and broke a few panes of glass at Mr. Pitt's ; which has been exaggerated, according to custom. The military were called out ; but their appearance alone seems to have proved sufficient, and I trust all is now quiet. Happily, bread is not again advanced.

I have passed a very pleasant day at Richmond ; with madame de Cambis, the Uze family, and the duchess De la Trémoille : by means of an acquaintance of the latter, we saw the kangaroos belonging to the king ; which are now multiplied into a herd. Several of them are females : and it is most curious and comical to see the heads of the young peep out of the bag with which the dam is provided ; looking (as it were) at the world to see how they like it, before they venture to become inhabitants. They are six months in this state, and you see the dam and the young grazing from one body.

They are tame. Buffon mentions this extraordinary animal under the name of *sarigue, ou opossum*.

Lord Macartney's life is marked with uncommon variety ; and his mission to a king without a kingdom, is a complete contrast with his late embassy to China.

Lord Moira has announced that he leaves town on Friday ; and all who embark with him have orders to be at Southampton on Tuesday. The present *Monsieur* is to join the expedition, but not to land here. The comte De la Châtre, and fifty or sixty more officers, set out last night.

Major Harcourt is gone to the West Indies, to the great concern of lady Shulldham ; and I regret so worthy a young man being thus exposed.

I dispatched a packet for you this morning.—The owls are well ; and madame Fairy is lively ; and, I hope, *sage en même tems*.

[THE following two letters from Mr. Wilkes, at Paris, to his daughter, in London, were accidentally omitted in their proper place.]

Paris, Rue des Saints Pères,

February 23, 1766.

I AM greatly obligè to my dearest daughter for all the words of tenderness and affection which I find in her most pleasing letter of the 10th of February. I am quite recovered: and I take more care of myself than ever; which prudence is likely to last as long as the memory of having been ill presses on my mind,—I suspect, not much longer.

Marmontel has made a pastoral of the tale of the *Bergère des Alpes*, which I saw last night. It has no great success. I went chiefly out of compliment to our good friends in the *Rue Royale*; who protect the piece, and the musician. They had cele-

brated both the poetry and the musick in so high strains, that the public expectation was raised too much. The men observe, that a beauty too greatly cried up never amuses : the public find, that the *Bergère des Alpes* is uninteresting as a poetical or comic opera; but admire it as a tale. An Englishman can scarcely bear to hear all the tenderness which a gentle shepherdess inspires a gallant heart with, frittered away in a musical dialogue of quavers and semi-quavers.—Poor Mrs. Cibber ! how I lament her death ! Besides her superior talents for the stage, she could melt the soul by the most tender and pathetic strains, infinitely superior to all the flash and fire of wit. I believe you heard her sing Henry and Catherine once in Great George-street. That song, in her plaintive turtle note, has often filled my eyes with tears.

The two Helvetian nymphs inquire much about their dear miss Wilkes ; and ask me, when you are to come to Paris. My answer is, that as soon as I have permission to go to London, I shall pay my respects to

you there ; and that we shall return together to the capital of the sprightly Gauls. You would be better lodged here, my sweet Polly, than even in the *Rue St. Nicaise* ; and mademoiselle La Vallerie is always here.

Madame Grandsire, from Calais, came here lately ; and told me there was a box you had left at that place, which she sent to me here. I found that it contained two of my dear girl's *pastels* ; which I have just put up, and they are now the best ornaments of my *cabinet des livres*.

I have not received the letter you mention from Mr. Pugh, nor a line from Mr. Nixon for above a twelvemonth. I beg you to remember me to them both ; and be assured, my dear angel, that I am ever

your affectionate father,

JOHN WILKES.

*Paris, Rue des Saints Pères,
March 3, 1766.*

I THANK my dearest daughter for her obliging solicitude about my health. I am now quite re-established : and am able to enjoy the agreeable parties of the baron, Helvetius, Pelletier, &c. ; though (what gave the highest delight to all) the company of my dear miss Wilkes is wanting. The baron has been ill ; so has lord Edward Bentinck ; and, in short, most people here.

We had a most ridiculous horse-race here last Tuesday, on the plain *de sablon* ; between the comte De Lauragais (whom you know), and lord Forbes an Irish peer. My lord won. All Paris was present, and most of the court. It was a fine mild morning ; and the spectacle of four thousand brilliant equipages, the young nobility of both sexes, &c. &c., was very pleasing. Some of the

princes of the blood were present ; and there was a kind of second race among them afterwards. This frivolous giddy nation amused themselves with this trifle for three days. Lauragais's younger brother was married the same morning. *Madame P. disoit, monsieur Lauragais n'a pas un sou à donner à son frere ; voilà pourquoi il se cassera la tête, comme un cadeau de noces.*

The two Helvetiuses are impatient to see you ; but not half so much as mademoiselle La Vallerie and I are. We talk of you every day.

Lady Berkeley is here, with her two daughters and the young lord. Every creature pities the two young ladies, for the sad example a mother daily sets before their eyes. They soon return to England ; except my lord, who is to continue here.

I am ever, my sweet girl, with all possible tenderness,

your affectionate father,

JOHN WILKES.

*Dr. H***** to Mr. Wilkes.*

26th September, 1775.

DR. H***** presents his respectful compliments to the lord-mayor and the lady-mayor; and takes the liberty of returning them his most hearty thanks for their great politeness to him yesterday, and for their having been the means of his passing one of the most agreeable days he ever spent. He begs leave to acquaint his lordship, that he has been this morning at the queen's-house: where he so fixed matters, that his lordship, and any three or four friends of his, may view it at their own leisure, and at whatever hour is most convenient to them,—either on next Saturday, Monday, or Tuesday, mornings. They have only to inquire at the door for Mr. Cross, the head porter, and tell him they came from Dr. H*****; and he will procure them immediate admittance. The doctor is extremely concerned that his being obliged to leave London on Saturday deprives him of the honour of attending his

lordship to the queen's-house ; and thinks it proper to observe, that he did not drop the most distant hint that his lordship was to be of the intended party. If Dr. H***** might take such a liberty, he would recommend it to the lady-mayorress to accompany her father to Buckingham-house, as he is certain she will receive the highest pleasure from the sight of the delightful collection of pictures there.

The Recorder to Mr. Wilkes.

John-street, Bedford-row,

October 19, 1782.

I HAD rather Mr. alderman Wilkes should hear from myself than from others, that I have abused his relation of the 24th of September (the language as well as the substance of it) to some of his worthy brothers of the court of aldermen : and that I retracted nothing that I had said after I was told who had penned it ; but, on the contrary, promised you a trimming for your carelessness.

I have since discovered, that the defect in point of language was imputable to the recorder, who sent me a mutilated copy. This relieves me from the surprise I felt that any thing ill-penned could come from you.

Now, my dear sir, let me present to you my humble remonstrance (you know you love a remonstrance), and a parenthesis, upon the substance of this curious relation. How could you—who I always understood did not love mischief for the sake of mischief—assist in the fabricating such a relation ?

I appeal to your own practice ; with your talents, you never thought it prudent to hazard interfering in our judicial proceedings at the Old Bailey. Men who have not your talents are now called upon, on pain and peril that may fall thereon, not to sit still and let the business go on. We shall have charming deliberation ! very edifying, no doubt. For Heaven's sake get yourselves and us out of this scrape, by rescinding your resolution.

I am, always, Mr. alderman Wilkes's

most humble servant,

JAMES EYRE.

LETTERS

OF

JAMES BOSWELL, ESQ.

LETTER I.

Tuesday, 14 May.

DEAR SIR,

I SHOULD set out for Scotland to-morrow ; but I will stay on purpose to have a dinner with lord Mountstuart and you. Let me know then, by a note, this night if possible, or to-morrow morning before ten, if that party can hold on Thursday, provided I can fix the third man. Send the note to me, at lord Mountstuart's, Hill-street, Berkeley-square. I think our tavern should be the Crown and Anchor.

Yours, &c.

2

JAMES BOSWELL.

LETTER II.

Thursday, 18th November.

DEAR SIR,

MR. Boswell will, with great pleasure, obey the glad summons to Kensington-grove on Sunday next; and is happy to understand, that *mon reverend père Villette**, in the discharge of his duty, is to be there to receive the confession of John Wilkes, as an *amende honorable* to the Scotch.

Courtenay told me this morning, when I asked him if he was to be with you, that you did not know where he was. I do know: and if you will enclose his card to me, I will deliver it, and insure him in time. But he says, if you do not send soon, he will be engaged.

I am glad of every opportunity to assure you that I ever am, very gratefully,

yours most sincerely,

JAMES BOSWELL.

* Mr. Villette, so justly celebrated for his exemplary conduct in his situation of ordinary of Newgate.

LETTER III.

*Portland-street, Portland-place,
Saturday, June 23.*

MY DEAR SIR,

YOU said to me yesterday of my *magnum opus*, "it is a wonderful book." Do confirm this to me, so as I may have your *testimonium* in my archives at Auchinleck. I trust we shall meet while you are in town.

Ever most truly yours,

JAMES BOSWELL.

LETTER IV.

*General Paoli's, South Audley-street,
12th of May.*

DEAR SIR,

AS I undertook to be the negociator of the dinner at your house, the sheriff of Bedfordshire, his brother, and an old Vesuvius fellow-traveller, beg to know if next Sunday the 18th will be convenient for the

chamberlain of London ?—My best compliments to miss Wilkes. She knows my conditional threatening, that you have been *mon beau-père*.

Vale !

JAMES BOSWELL.

LETTER V.

Wednesday, 21st of May.

MR. BOSWELL'S compliments to Mr. Wilkes. He rejoices to find he is so much better as to be abroad. He finds that it would not be unpleasant to Dr. Johnson to dine at Mr. Wilkes's. The thing would be so curiously benignant, it were a pity it should not take place. Nobody but Mr. Boswell should be asked to meet the doctor.—Mr. Boswell goes for Scotland, on Friday the 30th. If then a card were sent to the doctor on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, without delay, it is to be hoped he would be fixed ; and notice will be sent to Mr. Boswell.

LETTER VI.

MY DEAR SIR,

MR. MALONE, Mr. Courtenay, and I (your old travelling classical companion) will be much disappointed if you do not meet us to-day at Mr. Dilly's* ; where you will find wit, wine, and *gaieté de cœur*. Remember the jovial song, in which we read

Talk no more of whig and tory ;

Let state affairs,

And worldly cares,

Be thought of more at leisure.

Your excuse therefore of being engaged to attend your duty in parliament, will not be allowed ; and were the call † ever so strong, you would be time enough after some pleasant hours with us.

* Bookseller in the Poultry.

† There was a call of the house on that day.

Your life is already too rich in incident to require another *outlawry* to vary and animate your memoirs. But if you do not come, depend upon it you shall be outlawed by us as a competent tribunal ; and as lord Mansfield is now old, and I, by my admission to the English bar (which you so agreeably celebrated), am now *in posse* to succeed him, I give you a fair warning, that I differ so much from his lordship, that your outlawry shall *not* be reversed. Let me address you in the words in which you ingeniously fancied lord Bute to address a great personage at Rome :

Nil mihi rescribas, attamen ipse veni.

LETTER VII.

Edinburgh,

26th May, 1775.

MY LORD,

I CALLED at the mansion-house when your lordship was out of town ; and faithfully restored your Cologne gazettes, which afforded me much entertainment. Believe me, I am very sensible of your polite and obliging behaviour to me upon every occasion, particularly when I was last in London. We were classical and gay at the mansion house, as when at Rome and Naples ; nor did I concern myself more with your wild politics, than you did with my dull Scotch law.

I have recommended to the care of Mr. Dilly, who is my *chargé d'affaires*, to get a pedigree of our family authenticated before your lordship ; to be transmitted to my brother, a merchant at Valencia in Spain. It is a matter of some consequence to him in that country ; and I am sure you will be kind enough to let it have all due solemnity.

It is long since I enjoyed the pleasure of your correspondence. Will you renew it with me now? I should value as curiosities of the first rate, lively sallies from a lord-mayor of London; such as those from Mr. Wilkes, which are preserved in my cabinet.

You did not like my addressing you, my lord, when I saw you in private. Having therefore, in the beginning of my letter, paid the proper compliment to the chief-magistrate of the city of London; I shall conclude, as formerly, *dear sir*,

your very humble servant,

JAMES BOSWELL.

I beg my best compliments to miss Wilkes.

LETTER VIII.

Saturday, 20th of April, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CAME up from North Britain some weeks ago; but I was hardly arrived, when Dr. Johnson carried me with him on a jaunt to Oxford, Lichfield (his native city), and Der

byshire : so that I was like a sailor who has come off a long voyage, and is pressed in the harbour ; only that I was a volunteer under an illustrious philosophical commander. Since my return to the metropolis I have been so dissipated, that I have not had the pleasure of being with you, my classical friend ; for though we differ widely in religion and politics, *il y a des points où nos ames sont unies*, as Rousseau said to me in his wild retreat.

I am delighted to find that my honoured friend and Mecænas, my lord Mountstuart, made an excellent speech on the Scotch militia bill ; and I am peculiarly delighted to hear that you gave him lively applause. *Et tu, Brute ?* may be applied to you in an amiable sense here. Will you make me happy, by telling me yourself how well you liked it ? If you knew his nobleness of soul as well as I do, you would almost allow him to be a prince of high prerogative ; because it would be only allowing a large power of doing good, where there is a large inclination.

Will you please to let me know what morning I can drink chocolate at an hour of luxurious leisure ? for I would not intrude upon your seasons of business.

I always am, as when in the elysium of Italy,

dear sir, yours,

with sincere good wishes,

JAMES BOSWELL.



Edinburgh,

February 14, 1783.

DEAR SIR,

I HOPE to be with you in London next month. In sir Alexander Dick's large collection of letters from eminent and ingenious men, to which I have free access, I find a great many from Dr. Armstrong ; some of which are very good. It is curious to observe with what fond praise he writes of you at one period, and with what atrabilious rage at another.—Sir Alexander, who is now in his eightieth year, is very little changed

from what you have seen him. I never saw a finer old age. He remembers you with lively pleasure.

Pray, make my compliments acceptable to miss Wilkes; and believe me to be,
dear sir, most socially yours,

JAMES BOSWELL.

South Audley-street,

25th May, 1783.

MR. BOSWELL presents his best compliments to Mr. and miss Wilkes: encloses Dr. Johnson's answer; and regrets much that so agreeable a meeting must be deferred till next year, as Mr. Boswell is to set out for Scotland in a few days. Hopes Mr. Wilkes will write to him there.

Inclosed.

" May 24, 1783.

" MR. JOHNSON returns thanks to Mr. and miss Wilkes for their kind invitation: but he is engaged for Tuesday, to sir Joshua Reynolds; and for Wednesday, to Mr. Paradise."

[In Mr. Boswell's Life of Dr. Johnson, there are two anecdotes of Mr. Wilkes which may be repeated here without impropriety.]

“ My friend Mr. Dilly, bookseller in the Poultry, London, invited me to meet Mr. Wilkes and some more gentlemen, at his house to dinner on Wednesday, the 5th of May, 1776. ‘Pray,’ said I, ‘let us have Dr. Johnson.’ ‘What, with Mr. Wilkes? not for the world’ said Dilly; ‘Johnson would never forgive me.’ ‘Come,’ said I, ‘if you will let me negotiate for you, I will be answerable that all shall go well.’ Dilly acquiesced. Boswell went to Johnson, and told him that Mr. Dilly sent his most respectful compliments to him, and would be happy if he would do him the honour to dine with him on Wednesday next, along with him [Boswell], as *he* must soon go to Scotland. Johnson replied, ‘I am obliged to Mr. Dilly; I will wait on him.’

“ Boswell.—‘Provided, sir, I suppose, that the company which he is to have are agreeable to you.’

“Johnson.—‘What do you mean, sir? what do you take me for? Do you think I am so ignorant of the world, as to imagine that I am to prescribe to a gentleman what company he is to have at his table?’

“Boswell.—‘I beg your pardon, sir, for wishing to prevent you from meeting people whom you might not like. Perhaps he may have some of his patriotic friends.’

“Johnson.—‘What care *I* for his *patriotic* friends?’

“Boswell.—‘I should not be surprised to find Jack Wilkes there.’

“Johnson.—‘And if Jack Wilkes should be there, what is that to me?’

“On the Wednesday, I waited on Johnson, and took him to Dilly’s. When we entered the drawing room, he found himself in the midst of a company he did not know. I observed him whispering to Dilly, ‘Who is that gentleman?’ ‘Arthur Lee,’ said Dilly.—Johnson. ‘Too, too, too,’ (under his breath,) which was one of his habitual murmurings. Lee was obnoxious to Johnson, because he was an American pa-

triot.* ‘And who is the gentleman in lace?’—‘Mr. Wilkes, sir.’ This information confounded him still more: he had some difficulty to restrain himself; and, taking up a book, he sat down on a window-seat. But the cheering sound of ‘Dinner is on the table,’ roused him from his reverie.

We all sat down without any symptom of ill-humour. Mr. Wilkes placed himself next to Dr. Johnson, and behaved to him with so much attention and politeness, that he gained upon him insensibly. Mr. Wilkes was very assiduous in helping him to some veal. ‘Pray, give me leave, sir—it is better here—a little of the brown—some fat—a little of the stuffing—some gravy—let me have the pleasure

* At the commencement of the American contest, this Mr. Lee wrote a tract of much celebrity, entitled, “An Appeal to the Justice and Interests of the People of Great Britain, on the present Disputes with America.” Dilly declined to print it, because he thought the sale would not be sufficient to defray the mechanical expenses; upon which, Dr. Franklin sent it to Mr. Almon, who accepted it. There were many thousands of it circulated, both in England and America. It was the best tract on the subject at that time. *Editor.*

of giving you some butter,' &c. 'Sir, sir,' said Johnson, 'I am obliged to you, sir;' bowing, and turning his head to him with a look of surly virtue—but in a short while of complacency.

"After a little conversation, Dr. Johnson and Mr. Wilkes became very good-humoured, were very social, and agreeable to each other. Mr. Wilkes remarked, that among all the bold flights of Shakspeare's imagination, the boldest was the making Birnamwood march to Dunsinane; creating a wood where there never was a shrub—a wood in Scotland! Ha! ha! ha! And he also observed, that the clannish slavery of the highlands of Scotland was the single exception to Milton's remark of 'the mountain nymph, sweet Liberty,' being worshipped in all hilly countries.—Mr. Lee mentioned some Scotch who had taken possession of a barren part of America, and wondered they should choose it. Johnson said, 'Why, sir, all barrenness is comparative; the Scotch would not know it to be barren.'—Amidst some patriotic

groans, Wilkes said, 'Poor old England is lost!' Johnson replied, "Sir, it is not so much to be lamented that old England is lost, as that the Scotch have found it.' Wilkes rejoined, 'Had lord Bute governed Scotland only, I should not have taken the trouble to write his eulogy, and dedicate Mortimer to him.'

"I attended Johnson home; and had the satisfaction to hear him tell Mrs. Williams how much he had been pleased with Mr. Wilkes's company, and what an agreeable day he had passed."

THE other anecdote is the following.—In May 1781, Mr. Wilkes, Dr. Johnson, and Mr. Boswell, dined again at Mr. Dilly's. Mr. Boswell relates the conversation in this manner.

"Wilkes.—'I have been thinking, Dr. Johnson, that there should be a bill brought into parliament that the controverted elections for Scotland should be tried in that country, at their own abbey of Holy-rood House, and not here; for the consequence

of trying them here is, that we have an inundation of Scotchmen, who come up and never go back again. Now here is Boswell, who is come up on the election for his own county, which will not last a fortnight.'

"Johnson.—'Nay, sir, I see no reason why they should be tried at all; for you know one Scotchman is as good as another.'

"Wilkes.—'Pray, Boswell, how much may be got in a year by an advocate at the Scotch bar?'

"Boswell.—'I believe, two thousand pounds.'

"Wilkes.—'How can it be possible to spend that money in Scotland?'

"Johnson.—'Why, sir, the money may be spent in England: but there is a harder question. If one man in Scotland gets possession of two thousand pounds, what remains for all the rest of the nation?'

"Wilkes.—'You know, in the last war, the immense booty which Thurot carried off by the complete plunder of seven Scotch isles: he embarked with *three-and-sixpence*.'

LETTERS
OF
DOCTOR WARTON.

LETTER I.

*Sackville-street,
January 22, 1792.*

MY DEAR SIR,

YOU will greatly oblige me, if you would be so kind to let me have a sight of the volumes of Pope you mentioned last night; of which, you may depend, the greatest care shall be taken. And I will return them to you before I leave town, and no soul shall see them. I am always, dear sir,

very faithfully and sincerely yours,

JOS. WARTON.

LETTER II.

Winchester, Feb. 6, 1792.

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM very much flattered by the strong testimony of friendship which your very kind letter brought me. The prospect you held out would indeed be equally pleasant and profitable, if it were possible for me at present to engage in such an undertaking, as publishing a complete edition of Pope. But I will own to you, I will not lose sight of it; and should be happy to have you as a fellow-labourer. If I had seen you before I left town, I would have informed you that I am sending up to the press an Appendix to my Essay on Pope; a pamphlet of about thirteen pages. I trust you may see in it some entertaining particulars. I find myself obliged frequently to contradict Johnson, as well as Warburton.

By the way, what would be the consequence of a new edition of Pope's works,

with respect to the present proprietors of the copy-right? This perhaps might be managed: or rather, the right, by this time, must be extinguished.

You will do me an inexpressible favour, if you have ever any leisure, to give a line of the news stirring; and particularly any relating to our friend, Mr. Hastings. I beg my best respects to miss Wilkes: and I am, my dear sir, with true regard,

your faithful, affectionate,
and obliged servant,

J. WARTON.

LETTER III.

Yarmouth, Isle of Wight,

August 20, 1793.

MY DEAR SIR,

I FEED on the hopes of dining with you on Monday the 26th instant, if the weather continues good; but beg you to consider, that I do not make an absolute engagement, but will take my chance of finding you at

home. I must return that night to Newport. Though I have a thousand things to say to you, I can now only add that

I am, dear sir,
very faithfully and sincerely yours,

J. WARTON.

My best compliments to miss Wilkes, if with you.

LETTER IV.

Wickham, near Fareham,

July 11, 1796.

MY DEAR SIR,

HAVING made an inquiry in which I was much interested—whether you were got to your delightful cottage in the island, I received authentic information from a gentleman who saw you last Saturday at the Fountain inn at Portsmouth, that you passed through that place on that day. I design to give myself the great pleasure of dining with you at Sandown on Wednesday, the 20th inst; but would beg you not to break through any engagement you may have, lest

I should be prevented, by weather or accident, from putting my plan into execution.

Believe me always, dear sir,
your affectionate and very faithful friend,
and humble servant,

J. WARTON.

LETTER V.

Wickham, August 10, 1797.

MY DEAR SIR,

IT was my fixed intention to have enjoyed the great pleasure of visiting you in the island this week. But you and I have lived long enough to be frequently disappointed and defeated in executing many a favourite scheme.—A very untoward accident totally prevents a possibility of waiting on you, as I hoped to do. About ten days ago, I went to lord Malmesbury, at Park-place; to meet in his absence, and by his desire and appointment, a very agreeable party,—lord St. Helens, sir Brook Boothby, Mr. C. Ellis, Mr. Freer, sir Harry Englefield, &c. &c. A gentle ride round the charming grounds and park

being proposed, and I objecting to ride a strange horse, I was assured over and over that the horse brought for me was remarkably quiet and safe, and one that lord Malmesbury always rode himself. The instant I mounted, this quiet horse kicked and plunged, reared, &c. and threw me off on my side: fortunately without breaking arm, leg, or skull; but straining and wrenching the large muscle under the arm. I was blooded, oppodeldoc'd, &c. and got home as I could; but the rheumatism having fallen on the part, is very painful, and a fit of the gout in my foot has followed.—A long detail of myself you will think, if not say. At present I am confined to my chair.

Your neighbour miss Carter is with us. Let me know how long you shall continue in the island. I am afraid we shall not have peace. My wife joins in best compliments to miss Wilkes. I am always, my dear sir,

with true regard,
yours faithfully and affectionately,

J. WARTON.

LETTER VI.

Wickham, Sept. 30, 1797.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HOPE you are safely housed in Grosvenor-square, and escaped the pelting storms which have assailed your delightful island. We shall not, I fear, so easily escape our political tempests.—So then, all hopes of peace are vanished. You are in the midst of the world. I am quite out of it.

Do you see, or is it worth your while to see, how I have been attacked in the last Monthly Review? Principally because I, a grave doctor, should have dared to insert in my edition of Pope the sober advice from Horace, and the admirable pleadings of Scriblerus concerning the Double Mistress, both which Pope himself had inserted in an edition published by his friend Dodsley. I cannot but smile at such an impotent attack.—The same good critic is also angry that I should have interwoven what I had before said in my Essay on Pope ;—to do which was one of the principal motives for my undertaking the

edition. You may be assured I laid my account and expected to be attacked, and therefore bear such a bombardment with patience and insensibility.

But I have been only this morning informed, that I have been unmercifully scourged in the *last* edition of the Pursuits of Literature, which I have not seen. I much wish you could hear, and would let me know, who is the author of that strange work. Surely the verse part of it is the most harsh, crabbed, and obscure, that has been produced since the days of Persius; and evidently written for the sake of the long pedantic notes. One shall hardly see such drawcansir-work. Every body is censured and abused. The satirist defies discovery, saying it will be impossible to find him out. All I say relates to the *first* edition; not having seen the last. Give me a line on this subject.

My best remembrances and compliments to miss Wilkes.

I am, my dear sir, with true regard,
very faithfully and sincerely yours,

J. WARTON.

Three Letters, from various Correspondents.

Dublin, June 28, 1782.

I SHOULD, my dear sir, have performed my promise at Holyhead, had not my arriving almost at the instant of the packet's departure deprived me of that pleasure. My journey through England and part of North Wales was much more pleasant than I had reason to expect : as the storm of rain which appeared to be local previous to my leaving London, I found had extended quite across our island ; producing the pleasing effects of a temperate atmosphere, and roads free from dust,—circumstances which, in more superstitious times, a traveller would have considered as omens of a propitious nature.

A passage of twenty-six hours, with but little variety, opened to me a prospect of Dublin-harbour ; which, I am told, resembles the bay of Naples. Whether the partiality of the Irish has magnified the beauties of the watery avenue to their capital by

such a comparison or not, I am not competent to decide. That it has its beauties, like all other large bays surrounded with hills and cultivated shores, I readily admit ; but I cannot suppose that we need make a voyage to the Mediterranean for prospects equally extensive and pleasing. Our own coast will furnish them, and with the addition of some circumstances more picturesque and magnificent. The sound and harbour of Plymouth, from mount Edgecumbe ; and the more extensive scenes of St. Helen's, Spithead, and Portsmouth, from the Isle of Wight ; if they do not eclipse, will ever remain very formidable rivals to all the beauties of the bay of Dublin.—The city, from the little I have yet seen, appears to be an imperfect miniature of London : the scale is but small, and the resemblance not quite correct. The people are anxious for improvement, and are perfectly united. They hold a language of which many other European nations are ashamed, perhaps, because it is the language of freedom ; and they have taught a

parliament corrupt to a proverb, to assume a conduct of virtue by rendering due (though compulsive) obedience to the majesty of the people.

The doctrines of Mr. Fox and Mr. Thomas Pitt, gave rise to Mr. Flood's idea of the necessity of a formal renunciation of all right in the parliament of Great Britain to legislate either externally or internally for this country: and though Mr. Grattan, and nearly the whole nation, seemed satisfied with an implicit renunciation of the repeal of the 6th of George I., yet I have no doubt that Mr. Flood will receive a support equal to that which Mr. Grattan has experienced, and that the volunteers will soon resolve "that what is confessedly understood to be implied, ought clearly and fully to be expressed." On this business Mr. Fitzpatrick is said to be gone to England; and the parliament stands adjourned to the middle of next month, for his return.

The Irish are not yet sufficiently refined to comprehend the sublime and beautiful idea of *subordinate liberty*. They have been very

attentive to the conduct of the father of that idea, and “the prophet has but little honour amongst his countrymen.” The assertion, one day, that partial freedom is a most invidious mode of slavery ; and on another, that Ireland is only intitled to her subordinate rights ; are declarations frequently the subject of conversation and of ridicule. Till every thing is finally settled between the two kingdoms, the people here will be alive to suspicion.—The late speech of lord Abingdon has spread an alarm. Clear and uniform as his lordship ever has been relative to America, they are surprised at his ambiguity on the subject of Ireland : and when he spoke of sacrificing every thing in support of the rights of England, without explaining what he meant ; and reserved himself till the next session for a discussion of the subject ; the Irish concluded that something remained unfriendly and dangerous to them. This, at present, is a cause of jealousy ; and if Mr. Fitzpatrick should return without a full and explicit renunciation, their suspi-

cions will be confirmed, and their gratitude turned into resentment.

The volunteers have been misrepresented and misunderstood in England. They principally consist of the first and middle classes of the people (not of the lower order armed and paid by subscription); and from the rotation of command (except as to their generals and colonels) they preserve a perfect equality. A peer in the ranks commanded by a tradesman, is common: an officer one month, and a private man the next. No country, except America, has lately exhibited such a scene: the first and best of citizens in arms, asserting their rights; deriving importance not so much from their rank and property, as from the zeal with which they pursue their object, and the perfection to which they have attained in the military art. If hereafter they can inspire the common people with industry, and will give proper encouragement to agriculture and manufactures—depressed as they are at present, they cannot fail of being a rich and

prosperous people. But I will not any longer tire your patience with my loose observations.

My stay here will be about a week from this date. I shall then go to Limerick for a few days, and from thence to Cork ; where I shall be happy to receive a line from you, directed to me at Mr. William Howell's, merchant, in that city. If you write by any post from the 8th to the 11th of July, it cannot escape me. It will give me pleasure to hear that you have made a final settlement with my good friend in Palace-yard, and to your mutual satisfaction.

You will make my respectful compliments to miss Wilkes ; and believe me always, very truly,

yours, &c.

S. MULLETT.

St. James's, July 2, 1784.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE received the packet for the duchess De la Valiere, and am very glad it came just when I had directed a messenger to be in readiness to set off for Paris.

I beg leave to assure you, sir, how very sensible I am of the flattering expressions of regard contained in the very polite letter you sent to me with it; and shall be at all times happy to merit a continuance of your good opinion. Believe me, dear sir,

your very faithful humble servant,

CARMARTHEN.

Thursday Evening.

MR. SEWELL, of Hadley, sends herewith his respectful compliments to Mr. Wilkes, with the medal of Trajan's bridge over the Danube; and with another of that emperor. Under the arch, "DANVBIVS" is quite effaced. One arch only on the medal: there were twenty arches. The whole length of the bridge was 4370 Roman feet (5280 Roman feet to a Roman mile) somewhat less than an English mile; the length somewhat less than four fifths of an English mile.

What a pity it is, that this medal was not known when Westminster and Blackfriars bridges were framed!

If Mr. Wilkes does not set out before eight to morrow morning, Mr. Sewell will wait on him at seven at his inn, to consult about getting a complete draught of this bridge by some eminent master in London.

WILLIAM SEWELL.

Perhaps this medal is not to be found elsewhere in the world.

ON the peace in 1783, Mr. Wilkes joined Mr. Pitt's party in parliament, which occasioned some schism among his friends: and from this time he voted with Mr. Pitt in all his principal measures. The alternative that appeared to him most easy was, to adhere to those whom he had joined, rather than to return to those whom he had left.

Parties and politics were at this time in such a state of fluctuation, that scarcely any man knew on which side to look for his friend, whether on the right or left hand of the speaker. Mr. Wilkes, having made his election, received the usual notice from the ministry on the great days of business. The following is a copy of one of the treasury letters to him.

Treasury-chambers, May 2.

DEAR SIR,

NOT having had an opportunity of speaking to you in the house, I trust you will excuse my asking you in plain terms, whether we may count with certainty upon your attendance and support on Friday next.

Yours, my dear sir,

most faithfully,

THOMAS STEELE.

END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

£ 200-0-0

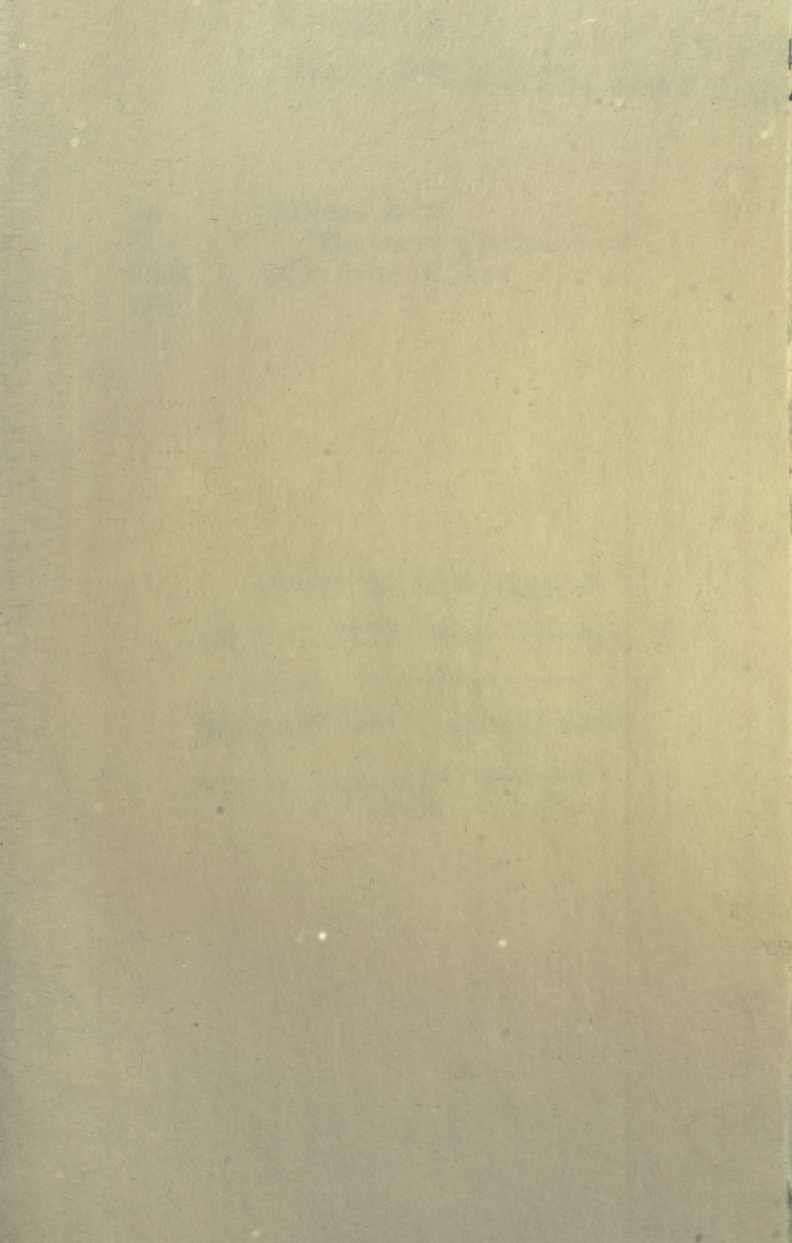
Paris, July 13. 1767

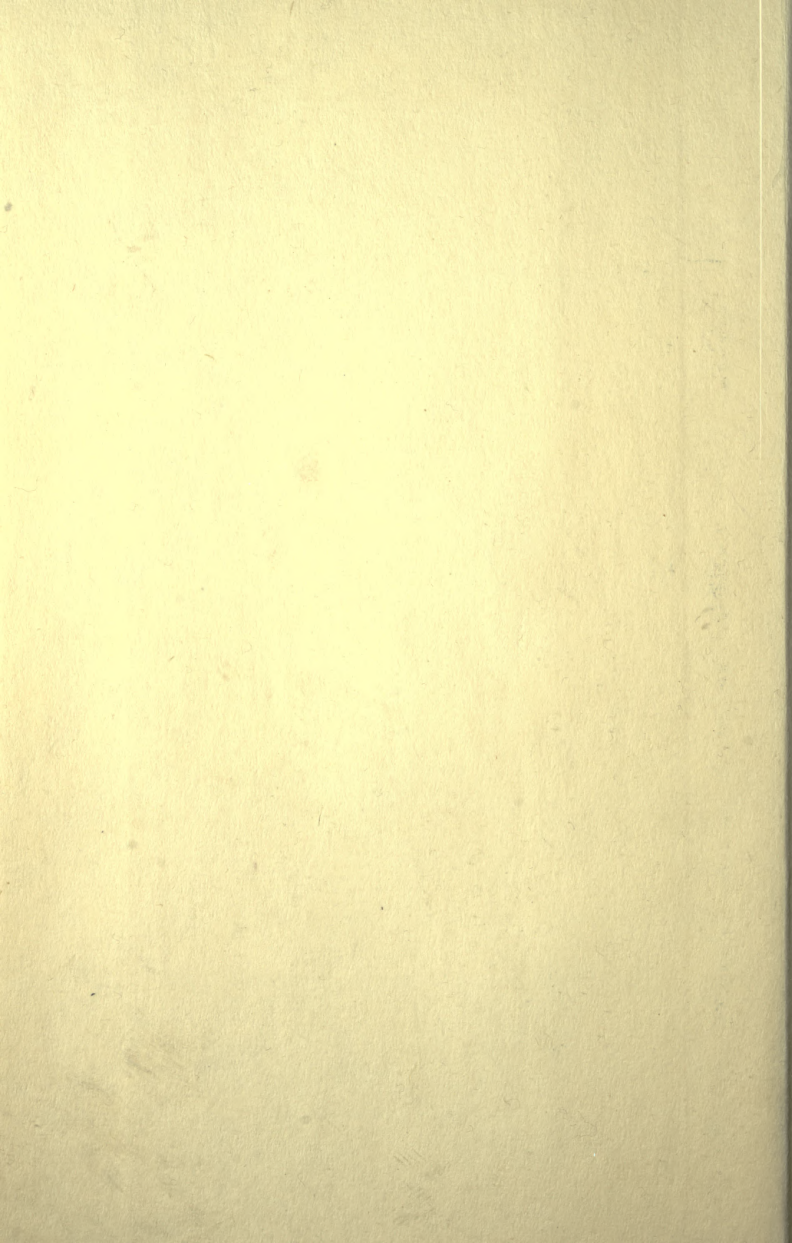
On the first day of September next pay to Mr. Newton Withes
or his order the sum of two hundred Pounds, and you will
oblige
your humble servant

John Withes

To Mr. J. Almon
Bookseller, opposite to
Durlington House in
Piccadilly, London







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DA Wilkes, John
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